

Drapery, Haberdashery, &c.
HORDE N B R O T H E R S ,
209 and 211, Pitt-street
(only).

FOR WINTER, 1886.

CASIMERE and MERINO DEPARTMENT.
A manufacturer's Stock, set to hand, comprising all the new
shades and tint's of Merino, and Casimere, made after the
Continental centres of fashion.

which we will offer at
UNUSUALLY LOW PRICES.

44 inches and 46 inches wide,
in

Golden Brown, Coffee Brown, Saxe Brown, Bright Brown, Dark
Brown, and other shades in Brown.

1s 4d, 1s 6d, 1s 8d, 1s 11d, 2s 5d, 2s 6d, 2s 9d, and 2s 11d.
A splendid line.

HORDERN BROTHERS, PITTS-STREET

Brown, Olive, Sage, Myrtle, Moss, Dark Moss, Faded Leaf,
44 and 46 inches wide,
(WINTER, 1886.)

1s 6d, 1s 8d, 1s 9d, 1s 11d, 2s 5d, 2s 6d, 2s 9d.
Not to be equalled.

HORDERN BROTHERS, PITTS-STREET

Claret, Burgundy, Ruby, Green, Wine, Cardinal, Scarlet,
44 and 46 inches wide,
44 and 46 inches wide,
(WINTER, 1886.)

1s 6d, 1s 8d, 1s 9d, 1s 11d, 2s 5d, 2s 6d, 2s 9d.
Splendid Value.

HORDERN BROTHERS, PITTS-STREET

Navy, Fawn, Flax,
in all the shades and tints,
44, 45, and 46 inches wide.

1s 6d, 1s 8d, 1s 9d, 1s 11d, 2s 5d, 2s 6d, 2s 9d.
Soft and Fine.

HORDERN BROTHERS, PITTS-STREET

Fawn, Grey, Silver Grey, Drab, Stone, Cream, Saxe, Pink, Rose,
in every shade and tint,
45 and 46 inches wide,
2s 9d.

(WINTER, 1886.)

Not to be equalled in any establishment
at least 3s 6d.

HORDERN BROTHERS, PITTS-STREET

MORNING DEPARTMENT.
This we make a special study. We have not received a large
shipment, in good order and sound condition, direct from the
manufacturers, through our

Mr. CARR HORDERN,
who is now in the same rooms, comprising
BLACK CASIMERE,
44, 45, 46 and 48 inches wide,
comprising

1s 2d, 1s 4d, 1s 6d, 2s 5d, 2s 6d, 2s 9d, 2s 11d, 2s 12d,
3s 6d, 3s 9d, 3s 11d, 3s 12d, 3s 14d, 3s 16d, 3s 18d.

HORDERN BROTHERS, PITTS-STREET

BLACK FRENCH MERINO,
44, 45, 46 and 48 inches wide,
2s 6d, 2s 8d, 2s 11d, 2s 12d, and 2s 14d.

FIRST-CLASS GOODS.

HORDERN BROTHERS, PITTS-STREET

(ONLY).

COSTANCE CLOTH,
27 inches wide,
7s 6d, 8s 4d, 9s 1d, 10s.

WINTER, 1886.

OTTON CLOTH,
27 inches wide,
at

1s 2d, 1s 4d, and 1s 6d.

BLACK WORSTED SERGE,
30 inches wide.

1s 2d, 1s 4d, 1s 6d.

STRONG, ENDURABLE.

BLACK SATIN CLOTH,
1s 2d, 1s 4d, 1s 6d,
28 inches wide.

DRESSMAKING.

A SPECIAL FEATURE
is the

BREATHMAKING DEPARTMENT.

provided over by Mrs. Watt, a lady of extensive experience.

Customers may with confidence consult her in reference to their
requirements, and may be sure of having their orders executed
with the utmost promptitude, as the resources at our command
enable us to meet all emergencies.

WINTER, 1886.

HORDERN BROTHERS,
209 and 211, PITTS-STREET
(ONLY).

GREATER REDUCTIONS THAN EVER,
NOW IS YOUR TIME.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
5 KING-STREET,

SYDNEY.

I take the liberty of informing you that, in consequence of
decree arrived at by the Sydney Improvement Board,
in the view in which I have carried out the work for many
of the streets in King-street, are ordered to be pulled down by
March next. During the short time intervening, I have to dis-
pose of the large and varied Stock of

HOUSEHOLD DRAPERY

Dress Materials, Millinery, Mantles, Costumes,
Gloves, Fancy Goods.

In order to do within the short period allowed, I will mark
down the goods in every one of the above departments at prices
that will ensure their speedy sale. A visit to the great sale.

will prove this is not an Annual, Semi-Annual, or other special
get-up such SALE TO TIDE OVER A FULL SEASON, but a
GENUINE FORTUNE CLEARING-OUT
SALE.

at prices which have not been
approached for cheapness in SYDNEY for
many years.

Thanking you for your generous support in the past,
Your obedient servant,

W. G. CAMERON,

51, King-street.

F.R.—During the few days terms will be for
each only.

SUITS to measure of stout Navy Serge, 7s 6d, new
goods. Hoses and Socks, 1s 3d, King-street.

SUITS stylish in cut and material, 7s 6d to measure; 500
patterns to choose from, 1s 3d, King-street.

SUITS to measure of superior brown, olive green, blue,
and black coating, at lowest charges.

SUPERIOR THOURSERINGS for present Season in
stripes and cheques, 1s 6d, 1s 8d, 1s 10s.
133, King-street.

Medical, Chemicals, &c.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir.—The words of your editor appear to be abundantly
verified in the South Wales—“No one in search of
pleasurable sensations would willingly take up ‘Hill’s
Political Economy.’” I hope I am not quite singular when
I seek for pleasurable sensations in recurring to what
I do seek and that my desire is to have a good time
and not to be continually thinking of the business of the
day.

A banquet is being arranged for Mr. Graham Berry.

He is to be told at the banquet that he has been a
benefactor to the colony, and that the colony con-
sequently wishes well to him. No doubt it will be
said that he is to be comforted, for he is not
only not in the Ministry, but out of Parliament also.

Mr. Harper is to be comforted, for he is a
man of great worth, and a man of high character.

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THE SILVER MINES OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

VI.—THE BARBERRY RANGE SILVER-FIELD.

SIXTH NUMBER.

(BY OUR SPECIAL REPORTER.)

Between the Round and Broken Hills the country is a good deal more level. Every inch of ground has been pegged out, and a considerable amount of prospecting done. On the north side of the Broken Hill the first block which, without a doubt, has the Hill led running through it is the Victoria Cross. Between it and the Hill claims there is only one block, which lies a quarter of a mile away. The Victoria Cross was pegged out in the names of O'Connor, McIntrye, and O'Laughlin, but, like a good many other claims in this line, it has always changed hands, and is now held in ninth. Through the property the lode runs above the surface for a good distance, and it was here that the first surface lodes on the Broken Hill line were found. Little or no work has been done on the Victoria Cross. It has the true Broken Hill lodes through it, and lodes having been found on the surface it is more probable that on working it payable ore would be soon found. This is a valuable property. Lying directly between the Victoria Cross and the Broken Hill Proprietary Claim, and adjoining them, is the Cosmopolitan, or Broken Hill North, as it is now called. This, like the Maybell, was pegged out by Julius Nickel, and several shares in it being sold to people of almost all nations, most of whom were truly "wanderers over the face of the earth," the former very appropriate name was given it. However, being so close to the biggest thing on the Hill, the shareholders were not content until they were as close to the name as it is possible to be, and so it is now called the Broken Hill North. Last year the Broken Hill North was sold to a Sydney and Melbourne syndicate, the then proprietors receiving £18,000 in hard cash, and being answerable as well as the other shareholders (80,000 shares in all) for calls to the amount of \$5. Since a good deal of work has been done in the north end of the claim a shaft has been sunk to a depth of 100 feet. One was found for 12 feet, but it cut out in the east, and since then the shaft has been entirely through country. Near the south end of claim a sound shaft has been sunk to a depth of 100 feet (about E. and W.). At 100 feet a crosscut has been put in showing the lode to be 64 feet wide. The formation is good, but tail-staff poor, excepting only traces of silver. The only claim left unnoticed in this line is the Northern Junction, adjoining the Broken Hill Co.'s blocks for 20 chains along the west boundary. When pegging the Broken Hill out, instead of pegging along the line of lodes the blocks were pegged and on with one another running to a portion of the lodes taking a curve to the east; it was not included in the company's blocks, but was soon after pegged out by Messrs. Penning and Gaffney, and is now the Northern Junction claim. Through it the lode runs for a considerable distance, although in no place being very far away from the Broken Hill blocks. About the centre of the property a shaft has been sunk in the lodes to a depth of 100 feet. At 100 feet good walls were found, and after three years' delibration, decided in favour of Wellington. The shaft cost £7,000, and the refreshment-room, which was nearly completed, about £7,000. There was a good stock of timber. Wellington there was plenty of water, and the water was better.

Mr. LYNN remarked that the papers referring to the question were very numerous, and he had not yet had time to go through them.

Mr. DAVIES.—Will any steps be taken until you have got the reports?

Mr. LYNN.—Not at present, and no steps have been taken.

Mr. YOUNG said they were satisfied that the Department would not have gone so far with this matter as it had if it had not been satisfied that Wellington was the proper place for these blocks. It was also the stock deposit of the Victoria Cross, and the Victoria Cross claim was not a claim.

Mr. LYNN remarked that the papers referring to the question were very numerous, and he had not yet had time to go through them.

Mr. DAVIES.—Will any steps be taken until you have got the reports?

Mr. LYNN.—Temporary sheds must have been erected.

Mr. DAVIES.—In the Cole Valley line was constructed, Wellington would become the junction. The engine sheds alone cost from £2,000 to £2,000. If the sheds were removed to Dubbo, the drivers would have to pay for a quarter of a mile extra every trip, and this would represent a serious loss.

Mr. AARON said he had been given to understand that on the arrival of Sir Patrick Jennings in Sydney after his railway trip, telegrams were sent to Dubbo to prevent the engines from running to Wellington, and that the sheds were removed at the insistence of the shareholders.

Mr. LYNN.—The sheds have been removed, and found to be wanting, and therefore the Department did not now consistently remove the sheds from Wellington to Dubbo.

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Mr. YOUNG.—Temporary sheds must have been erected.

Mr. DAVIES.—In the Cole Valley line was constructed, Wellington would become the junction. The engine sheds alone cost from £2,000 to £2,000. If the sheds were removed to Dubbo, the drivers would have to pay for a quarter of a mile extra every trip, and this would represent a serious loss.

Mr. AARON said he had been given to understand that on the arrival of Sir Patrick Jennings in Sydney after his railway trip, telegrams were sent to Dubbo to prevent the engines from running to Wellington, and that the sheds were removed at the insistence of the shareholders.

Mr. LYNN.—The sheds have been removed, and found to be wanting, and therefore the Department did not now consistently remove the sheds from Wellington to Dubbo.

heartily to the invitation from the mother-country because we recognise in it a sign of the times—evidence of that strengthening interest in the colonies and their affairs which British statesmen and publicists are expressing in a hundred ways, and which, as we believe, has its inspiration or its support in a strong current of popular feeling. On former occasions invitations of this sort have been addressed to the whole world, and the colonies have appeared side by side with other communities, competing on the common platform of equal dealing which is the basis of British trade. Now they are asked to stand forth by themselves, and to illustrate in the most telling manner both the relative position and the resources of each, and the wealth and position which the Empire as one great whole commands. It is well for us, it is well for the Empire, it is well for the outside world, that this step has been taken. Anything that tends to set forth in palpable form the strength and unity of the Empire, and so to dispel the illusions of those who think that it is about to crumble to pieces for want of vitality at its centre and of cohesion amongst its parts, will work for good; and that can hardly fail to be the kind of influence which the holding of this Exhibition of India and the Colonies will produce. The Empire, as illustrated by the Exhibition, will be seen as a world in itself; and the appeal from the centre to the extremities, with a hearty response from all sides, will be acknowledged as evidence of the existence and force of that vital principle of union in interests and in aims by which the integrity of the Empire will be maintained.

The holding of this special Exhibition will go to show that the British Empire might be self-sufficient, and independent of the rest of the world, if its policy were one of exclusiveness, or isolation. A better lesson to be drawn from the event would be that the immense extent of the Empire, the distribution of its territory, and the richness and variety of its resources, provide it with unequalled opportunities for beneficial contact and intercourse with the outside world. Some will regard the spectacle in the one light, some in the other. It is possible that appeals to the Exhibition may be made in support of the views of those who think that the most practicable way to bind the component parts of the Empire firmly and permanently together is to place their commercial intercourse with each other upon a new footing of greater favour than that accorded to the outside world. There is a certain attractiveness about the idea, but it disappears after a glance at the facts. Both British trade and Colonial trade have thriven under the free and even-dealing policy of later years; and a revolution would be required to bring about a return to the system of restriction and special treatment of the past, or to any partial copy of it. No greater mistake could be made than to suppose that the first step towards strengthening the bonds between the mother-country and the colonies would be to deprive the colonies, or ask them to deprive themselves, of that freedom to regulate their fiscal policy according to their own ideas and views of interest which was conferred upon them in their constitutions, and which they have exercised with conscious pride. But that freedom would undergo more or less of interference if the policy of creating a Zollverein in any form within the Empire were carried into effect. The colonies depend largely—some more largely than others—upon Customs duties for the revenue that pays the expenses of government. With some those duties are protective in character and intention, and are levied upon articles of British trade. Their relation to the mother-country is practically the same as that of Continental nations against whose action fair-trader protest, and against whom the scheme of establishing specially favourable relations between England and the colonies is aimed. It would, therefore, be a miscalculation to infer from the readiness with which the colonies have co-operated in the matter of this Exhibition that the times are ripe or ripening for any movement to bind the Empire together by means of arrangements of that nature. The Exhibition will furnish striking evidence of the expansion of the Empire and the development of its resources under conditions that give the largest measure of free action to every part. In the maintenance of that measure of freedom will be found a basis for union and a source of strength.

The English men and women who, with vague admiration, will throng the colonial courts of the forthcoming Exhibition, and who may read the different pamphlets describing the area, population, productions, and resources of the different colonies, will receive a general impression of the magnitude of the material interests attached to the outside portion of the Empire. But how many will pass in their contemplation from the material to the immaterial, and grasp the conception, not only of the ship-loads of produce which the colonies send to the mother-country, but of the political and social ideas which grow up naturally in them, and which will find their way to the Fatherland? It must not be forgotten that the great self-governing colonies are already complete communities in themselves, and that, like every organic whole which has vitality, each of them produces its own fruitage, according to its inherent character, and that nature of the conditions in which it unfolds itself. As colonists we brought out with us the political and social habits of thinking and acting that had been formed in the parent land, and these habits have either decayed, or been strengthened or modified, according as the differences between colonial and English circumstances were unfavourable or favourable. With a commendable desire for sympathy, and yet with a singular lack of imagination, Englishmen have of late often expressed a desire to understand the colonies. There ought not to be any huge difficulty in the matter, for if the average Englishman will simply imagine that he has emigrated, and ask how he would think, feel, and act, under colonial conditions, he would understand the colonies.

That colonial life, while it preserves the general type of British thought and action, does develop certain variations, is obvious to every thoughtful observer, and certainly is not least visible in our political institutions. The love of liberty and the love of order are two strongly-marked characteristics of British political life, and they have both had a full and free development ever since self-government was granted to the

colonies. We have had to work out the political problem under conditions of much less restraint, and much greater facility for trying experiments, than was possible in the old country. Vested interests have had with us less influence, and the disposition to experiment with new theories has had a freer range for exercise. One consequence of this has been that we developed some portions of the radical programme far in advance of what it was possible to do in Great Britain, and our experience in this way has unquestionably reacted on the mother-country. We adopted the principles of universal suffrage, a fair equality in the electoral districts, and vote by ballot, long before it was possible to adopt them in the mother-country; and there can be no doubt that the colonial initiative and colonial experience have reacted on the mother-country. The disconnection of the State from special theological teaching, is also a natural development from colonial life, and has unquestionably prepared the way for disengagement and disestablishment in England.

In some respects we have not marched along the lines on which sundry theorists expected that we should have marched. We have at present universally adopted the plan of two Houses of Parliament, and have endeavoured to work on the lines of party government. There are not wanting amongst ourselves critics who declare that in both these respects we are still benighted, and clinging to English customs which are not suitable to our conditions. The fact, however, to be noticed is that with the utmost freedom to act according to circumstances, and to adapt ourselves to our needs, we have not at present greatly varied from the English type. If we should so vary, and should do it successfully, our action would not be without its influence on English political ideas. If we brought with us the seed of political institutions, we send back continually the harvest that we reap.

The question that is now the great puzzle for British statesmen affords another illustration of the way in which colonial experience is mixing itself up with English local politics. The demand for Home Rule is by many of its advocates said to be simply a demand that Ireland should have the status of a colony, and be governed exactly as Canada or Australia is. We do not dispute here the wisdom of this demand, but merely point out that the idea of this Parliamentary independence, combined with subjection to the Crown, is a development of the English colonial system, and if it were applied to the integral parts of the United Kingdom, would be one of the many instances of the reaction of colonial politics on Imperial politics. Some theorists have received the idea so fruitfully into their minds, that they have already formulated the British Constitution of the future, giving Home Rule, not only to Ireland, but to Scotland and to Wales, and even subdividing England itself into some dim reproduction of the divisions of the Heptarchy. It is easy for those who are prepared to speculate thus freely to go still further, and to include the great colonies as co-equal States in this vast federation, the Empire being governed by an Imperial Congress, local administration being left to local Parliaments.

This is going very fast and very far, and it is by no means certain that colonial movements at the present time tend in that direction. No such reconstruction of the ground-work of the Empire could take place without the willing consent of all the parts. The mother-country will certainly not be coerced into sharing its Imperial authority with the colonies, and the colonies are just as little likely to be bent against their will. Before the consent of all parties can be gained to so vast a change, all parties must feel that the change is for their interest, and no one who studies the fact can honestly say that there is any such general conviction at present. The project of Imperial federation had its origin in England, and, though not without its colonial echoes, is principally an English idea. Its natural and proper origin has been in the sense of self-interest. It is not for the sake of the race, nor for the sake of the colonists, that the project has been so warmly taken up; it is for the sake of Great Britain, whose strength will be multiplied, and whose future will be more surely guaranteed, if its already great and rapidly-growing colonies are inseparably welded to it. Hitherto those who have conducted this movement have wisely abstained from all attempt at detail. At present they can do nothing more than allow the idea to grow, if it will grow; and whether it will do so or not will depend on the amount of self-interest, and whether it is great enough to justify considerable sacrifice; for close Imperial federation would, as matters stand now, involve sacrifices on both sides of authority and self-government. If all the parts of the Empire are to work together, there must be a mutual give and take. The Imperial decision must be potent in the colonies, and colonial ideas must be potent at Westminster. Macmillan's doctrine that Constitutions are not made, but grow, is as true now as ever. If the colonies are to be a new Constitution for the British Empire it must grow. If the change is to be realised at all, nothing will so tend towards it as the growing greatness of the colonies. What has made the Irish question so pressing is the fact that Irishmen outside Ireland are as numerous as those in it, and have a great deal more money to spend and to contribute. Put the same question of relative numbers in another way, and ask what will be the effect when the British population abroad is equal in numbers to the British population at home (and that will happen in about a quarter of a century). Add the fact that the outside population will on the average be more prosperous, and with greater facilities for expansion, will multiply faster. What sort of an Imperial union will it have to be to keep all the parts of the Empire voluntarily together? No new Constitution will fit, or will last, which will not adjust itself in a self-acting manner to the rapid growth of the greater Britain.

The result of the action for libel brought by Mr. Bryce, formerly Minister for Native Affairs in New Zealand, against Mr. Rusden, the author of a recently published history of New Zealand, is an event of striking importance from many points of view. The unusual amount of damages awarded to the plaintiff, £20,000, leads to the conclusion that the defence altogether failed. As the trial extended over eight days, and evidence had been taken by commission in New Zealand, as well as on oath in the Queen's Bench Division, the investigation of the facts in dispute

must have been exhaustive. It needs but a glance at Mr. Rusden's pages to see that his mind was strongly prejudiced against Mr. Bryce and his conduct of native affairs. The libel complained of was contained in a statement that on a certain occasion during the Maori outbreak, Mr. Bryce and Sergeant Maxwell gallantly dashed in and cut down, gleefully and with ease, several native women and children who were out on a pig hunt—which meant nothing less than a cold-blooded massacre. For such an imputation as that Mr. Bryce was not only justified in seeking the vindication of his character, but he was morally bound to seek it. There were other reasons, however, which compelled him to take in the matter into a court of law. Mr. Rusden had abused his functions as an historian for the purpose of attacking not only Mr. Bryce, but many other local statesmen, to whom the conduct of native affairs had been entrusted. His work betrays the influence of a prejudice against the administration of affairs in all that related to the native race. In one of the first sentences of his preface he tells his readers that the cause of his patriotic interest in New Zealand is to be found among the Maoris and not among "their invaders." That was the text which he undertook to expand in three large octavo volumes in a style which Mr. Bryce's action has now made familiar. The best excuse that can be made for a history written on such principles—if any excuse can be made at all—is that the writer was misled by his ultraphilanthropy as an advocate of the Maori race. He is evidently one of those hot-headed enthusiasts whose childish faith in the "noble savage" has led them to adopt the most bigoted notions with respect to English tyranny and usurpation among the native races. The contest in the Queen's Bench was something more than a trial of strength between Mr. Bryce and Mr. Rusden. It was a contest between the English settlers and the men who love to denounce their own countrymen as monsters instigated by greed and selfish ambition. Mr. Bryce has vindicated the "good name" of England as well as his own, and in so doing he has earned the thanks of colonists in every part of the Empire.

The report of the committee which was appointed to investigate the affairs of the Commercial Bank of South Australia was published yesterday. It is a document of almost unequalled severity. It contains charges of a most serious nature against the directors and the principal executive officers of the bank. The reasons for the collapse of the institution are stated to be the dishonesty of the two chief officials and the culpable negligence of the directors. It is asserted that the manager, without the knowledge of the directors, made enormous advances to men of straw, on very insufficient security—in many cases without any, and that both he and the accountant used the funds of the bank for their own private purposes. The manager, it will be remembered, has admitted that he kept back many of the transactions from the knowledge of the directors, but he has said nothing concerning the other part of the charge. It is the most serious so far as he himself is concerned, because, if true, it may bring him within the reach of the criminal law. But grave as are the accusations made by the committee against the manager of the bank, scarcely less serious are those made against the directors. On these persons it laid the chief burden of the blame or the disaster which has happened, and if the statements contained in the report may be relied on this appointment is equitably, for on that assumption a most flagrant example of carelessness and indifference is sold out, if ever, been disclosed in connection with a financial institution in these colonies. A day or two after the bank closed its doors, the Hon. R. A. Tableyton, one of the directors, gave a statement in which he attempted to clear himself and his brother directors from responsibility for the failure, and to fix it upon the manager. Their officer, he said, had manipulated the accounts and submitted to them bogus balance-sheets, and it was not surprising, therefore, that they had been deceived. But the committee have a different story to tell. They say that in 1880 the then manager of the bank was removed from his position "for concealing the true state of the bank's affairs by granting advances without their knowledge," and yet it appears that after this exposure of the manager's misconduct the directors became more lax in the performance of their duties than they were before. The correctness of balance-sheets were certified to by the directors apparently without their having verified the contents. The whole business being practically given into the charge of the manager, he conducted it after his own fashion. The exposure should do good. It should have the "effect" of making the shareholders in monetary institutions more careful in regard to the persons whom they elect to the directorate; and it may stir up existing directors and auditors to a more intelligent and thorough performance of their duties. Vigilance in such positions ought to be obligatory, but the obligation is not always continuously recognised.

It is stated that on Saturday night there were less than three cases of attempted robbery on the Namoi during her trip from Newcastle to Sydney. Stealing on the Hunter River steamers has become of frequent occurrence, and if an effective check is not soon provided, the companies will suffer greatly in their reputation. The lady passengers were the objects of the thieves' villainy on Saturday. Fortunately, they lost none of their valuables, but they received a severe fright, and perhaps that has been more injurious to them than would have been the loss of personal property. On several of the Newcastle steamers the ladies' cabin is on deck, and offer great facilities to the bad-disposed to carry out their dishonest designs. Finding this and in view of the thefts which have been committed, a strict watch should always be kept in the neighbourhood of the ladies' quarters and indeed of all the cabin. But apparently it has not been sufficiently understood by the directors or the officers that this is necessary. As many people who have made frequent visits to Newcastle are aware, nothing can surpass the watchfulness of the officers in regard to the navigation of the steamers. The captain seldom leaves the bridge for a moment, and between the break of the quarter-deck and the bows there are always to be found several wide-awake men. But the quarter-deck itself is entirely neglected. Worked out by their duties, the stewards all go to sleep at 1 o'clock, and for two or three hours afterwards opportunities are offered to the dishonest with but slight risk of interruption. The protection of passengers is hardly less than the safety of his ship. The dread of sea-sickness is quite enough for the voyager along the coast to have to endure, but when there is added to that the dread of losing his valuables en route, he may be forgiven if he anathematises the steamship companies, and expresses a longing for the more rapid extension of railways. No time should be lost by the companies in making such arrangements as will have the effect of restoring to travellers to and from Newcastle the sense of security which has been considerably shaken by recent occurrences.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

The special exhibition supplement to the *Herald* is published with this day's issue. Copies of the paper posted on or before Thursday next will be in time for the Australasian mail, and will reach London shortly before the opening of the Indian and Colonial Exhibition on May Day.

According to our cable news this morning, it is stated, on the authority of the *Times*, that Mr. Gladstone proposes to raise a huge loan of £220,000,000 in connection with his Irish land-purchase scheme, for the purpose of enabling the British Government to buy up the estates of the Irish landlords.

From a cable message which appears elsewhere it will be seen that the Cunard liner *Oregon* has been

sunk through being in collision with another vessel not named. No particulars are given of the accident. The *Oregon* was one of the fastest of the Atlantic liners, and one of the finest vessels in the Cunard Company's fleet. She was built at Fairfield, on the Clyde, in 1883. The hull was of iron, and her principal dimensions were as follows:—Length, 501 feet; breadth, 54 feet 2 inches, and depth, 38 feet. Her net register was 3329 tons, and her gross measurement 7375 tons. She was a screw steamer, and her engines were of 3000-horse power.

We have intelligence by cable from London of the death of General Sir Trevor Chute, K.C.B., who was formerly in command of the colonial forces in Victoria and New Zealand. Sir Trevor Chute was born in Truro, Ireland, in the year 1816. He entered the army in 1832, and subsequently became a Brigadier-General in 1864, Lieutenant-General in 1872, and General in 1874.

He was a man of great energy and

frivolous; and awarding the £100 lodged by the petitioners to the sitting member, towards his costs and expenses. A summary of the evidence given on behalf of Mr. Smith will be published to-morrow.

The St. Patrick's banquet this year promises to be a great success. The Hon. W. B. Dalley will preside. Mr. Jenkins, the Hon. H. Copeland, the Hon. James Fletcher, the Hon. James Garvan, and Sir J. Robertson have signified their intention of being present, together with the Mayor (Mr. John Young), and several of the aldermen. The British and German admirals and captains are invited. The banquet will be supplied by the Compagnon. All the viands will be cooked in the Mayor's new apparatus at the Town Hall, and will be served hot.

YESTERDAY afternoon about a hundred ladies and gentlemen met on board S.M.S. *Gneisenau* at the invitation of Captain Valois, for a dance. Boats were in readiness from 2 p.m. to convey the visitors on board the vessel, which is moored in Woolloomooloo Bay. Captain Valois received his guests on deck. The ship was beautifully decorated with flags, evergreens, and pot plants. All the guns had disappeared, and ample space was cleared for dancing. Among the visitors were Admirals Tryon, C.R., and Admiral Knorr, Commanders Lake, Ruh, Brooke, and Heudeaux, Commanders Hamilton, Cross, Pike, Marx, and Pullen; Captain Lieutenant von Holtzendorff, Flag-Lieutenant Pakenham, Colonel Roberts, C.M.G., Mr. Travers, Convenor-General for Germany; Mr. Sabl, Consul; Ex-Judge Josephson, Dr. Cox, Lieutenant Reynolds, Bayly, and Forrest, H.M.S. Nelson; Lieutenant Wright of the Royal Engineers; Clarke (Miranda), Stapleton (Lis), and many English and German officers. Mr. Bartlett, Dr. Lubin, Captain Waggoner, Mr. H. Hesse, Mr. W. G. Fischer, Mr. C. Moore, Mr. G. M. Montford, Mr. G. McPhee, Mr. G. E. Labouchere, Mrs. Forbes Angus, and many other gentlemen, with the ladies of their families. The bands of the *Gneisenau* and of the *Admiral Knorr* had joined that of the *Gneisenau*, and under the able direction of Kapellmeister Hoppe some music was admirably played, in addition to the programme of dance music, a march by Franz von Suppe, "Ueber Berg und Thal," the Amazon overture (Kieffer), and "Romanesca" by Von Zilkoff, being particularly admired. Refreshments excellent and abundant were provided on the main deck, and the greatest attention was paid by the captain and his officers to their guests. Dancing was kept up with spirit until half-past 6 o'clock, from which time the boats were kept busy in landing the guests until the sun had set.

M.M.S. *Sverre* anchored in Farm Cove yesterday afternoon. She left here on February 2, and went to Hobart, where she arrived on February 17, and remained until March 1. Thence she went to Launceston, and from there came back direct to Sydney. The cruise throughout was not marked by any unusual incident, but the stay in Tasmania was enjoyed greatly.

A LARGELY-ATTENDED meeting of the Commercial Bank of South Australia was held in the Adelaide Town Hall yesterday, to receive the report of the Committee which was appointed to investigate the bank's affairs. The Committee found that the board of directors had not, so far as the most vital interests of the bank were concerned, exercised the ordinary precautions generally adopted in the management of the affairs of similar institutions. Special auditors were appointed to assess the losses of the bank, and examine the whole state of the bank's affairs, and the meeting was adjourned for a fortnight. A full report of the proceedings, telegraphed from Adelaide, is published elsewhere.

It is understood that the members of the Government will be invited to the festivities at Mudgee during the visit of His Excellency the Governor at the end of this month. But, as it is the intention of the Ministry to push on with the business of the country without any delay, it is scarcely probable that they will be able to avail themselves of the hospitality of the residents of Mudgee.

A MEETING of the Cabinet will be held this morning at the Colonial Secretary's Office, and a meeting of the Executive Council will be held at noon.

We understand that it is the intention of the Minister for Works to revive the question of loading ships from trucks, with a view to replace the present system of side-loading, and a train of trucks will be altered in a very short time, so as to enable Mr. Lyne to personally superintend an experiment of loading trucks from the end. Mr. Mack, a gentleman engaged in pastoral pursuits near Deniliquin, and who takes a great interest in this matter, has invented, we learn, a truck specially adapted for end-loading. One of the peculiarities of his plan is to have a shifting partition, to run down the centre of the truck, so as to divide it lengthwise into two passages, as it were. This partition, which is very light, is hinged on to the roof of the compartment. It is hung down while the sheep are being run into the trucks beyond, but when the truck itself is to be filled the partition is hoisted up and fastened to the roof.

This deputation that waited on the Minister for Works yesterday on the subject of workmen's railway fares, not having given previous intimation of their visit, Mr. Lyne was not in possession of all the facts of the case. He has, however, since called for a report of the subject, and he finds that from the beginning of the present year railway employees, such as engine-drivers, signalmen, ticket-collectors, porters, &c., have been subjected to an additional charge of half a farthing on top of the ordinary fare, to cover the cost of the extra service. The new arrangement was made before, but it was overlooked until attention was called to the fact by a question put in the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Lyne has, however, now in a minute directed that this charge shall not be made, but that the workmen in question shall be allowed to travel free between their homes and their duty, and that the old arrangement shall be observed. All the railway employees on low wages are to be allowed to travel in the same manner, it being understood that so far as the metropolitan men are concerned, their homes should be within the suburban area (20 miles). There are already regulations by which heads of departments and high officials can travel at half fares.

The Art Society have decided not to give a presentation picture to subscribers to their art union this year as they have hitherto done. The preparation of the pictures proved so costly that little was left to the artists as a reward for their work. The new arrangement will not, however, diminish the value of the prize which will be distributed in connection with the art union. The distribution will take place on April 17th, just prior to the opening of the exhibition by His Excellency the Governor, and all the money subscribed will go towards remunerating the artists whose works are selected as prizes from the general collection placed on view.

The Marine Board held a meeting at their offices yesterday, for the purpose of finalising dealing with the circumstances attending the loss of the schooner *Glossarial*, and the other vessels owned by the *Glossarial*. The *Glossarial* was sold out of the *Glossarial* on February 27. At their last meeting the board found the loss of the vessel was caused by the wrong of Daniel Callaghan, the master, in not making any effort to free her of water when she commenced to leak, and they cited the master to appear before them yesterday to show cause why his certificate should not be cancelled or suspended. The master appeared accordingly, but offered no defence, and the board cancelled his certificate.

In the Sydney Court yesterday, before Mr. Justice Faure and a jury of four, the part-hearth case of Mr. Dugan, a man, carpenter, was tried. The defendant for Works to revise the question of loading ships from trucks, with a view to replace the present system of side-loading, and a train of trucks will be altered in a very short time, so as to enable Mr. Lyne to personally superintend an experiment of loading trucks from the end. Mr. Mack, a gentleman engaged in pastoral pursuits near Deniliquin, and who takes a great interest in this matter, has invented, we learn, a truck specially adapted for end-loading. One of the peculiarities of his plan is to have a shifting partition, to run down the centre of the truck, so as to divide it lengthwise into two passages, as it were. This partition, which is very light, is hinged on to the roof of the compartment. It is hung down while the sheep are being run into the trucks beyond, but when the truck itself is to be filled the partition is hoisted up and fastened to the roof.

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pleasure. About a hundred and twenty ladies and gentlemen assembled to do him honour, and spent a very agreeable afternoon and evening in his company. The party proceeded to Botany at 8 o'clock, and at once engaged in dancing and other amusements. At 7 o'clock they had dinner. The health of Mr. Isaacs was cordially drunk, and the party hoped he would have a pleasant journey. Mr. Isaacs having suitably responded to the honour done to him, dancing was resumed, and was kept up to a late hour.

The jocular visitors to the Zoo will be interested to learn that an addition has been made to the collection by the birth, yesterday, of two young lion cubs. We are informed that "all are doing well." The cubs appear to be healthy and promote well.

The Ashfield and Campbelltown Reserve Corps met on the range of the latter on Saturday. A strong and biting bleak wind was blowing, and it was anything but an enjoyable day as far as weather was concerned, and but for the warm hospitality the Campbelltown men extended to their visitors it would have been intensely miserable. Owing to the late hour when the teams arrived on the range the whole of the shooting could not be got through, and only five shots instead of seven were made at the long range. The Ashfield team was too strong for their opponents, and was the match by 99 points. At the short range Ashfield made 171, and the longer one 99; the Campbelltown 100 at the short range and 71 at the long. The light was very bad on the targets towards the close of the shooting. The best score was made by Private Greasy, of the Ashfield Corps, who scored 37 out of a possible 48 at the two ranges. Great credit is due to the Campbelltown corps for the excellent range they have provided, in many respects one of the best in the colony.

The Melbourne Argus of Saturday says:—"The Agent-General, writing on January 28 with respect to the reduction of the duty on colonial wines imported into England, forwards an extract from a private letter received by him from Mr. R. H. Holdsworth, of the firm of Gonzales, Ryss, and Co., of London, with respect to the feeling of those engaged in the wine trade. Mr. Holdsworth says:—We have had a special meeting of the Wine and Spirit Association on the vested wine duty question in consequence of a private intimation that the heads of the Customs and Excise are anxious to have the opinion of the trade as to the duty. A resolution, moved by Matthew E. Clarke, deputy-chairman, seconded by R. H. Holdsworth, and carried by 14 votes to 1, was as follows:—That a memorial be addressed to the Lords Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury, praying that a uniform rate of duty per gallon be levied on wines imported in case from all countries up to a strength of 40 degrees. We know not, express no opinion as to the dictate or suggest what the rate of duty should be. That must be left to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but we all agreed that £4. per gallon will satisfy the trade. I thought you might like to know that there is a move in the wine duty question, which must, we fancy, be taken up, whenever Government is in power."

The secretary of the Royal Commission on Water Supply has (says the Argus) compiled the results of the gaugings of the Wimmera River at the Glenorchy weir which have been taken since May, 1884. The drainage area of the river basin is shown to be 708 square miles, and the rainfall over the whole area during the last two years has varied from 20 inches to 22½ inches. The proportion of the total rainfall in the watershed passing down the river to Glenorchy is very small, being only 2.21 per cent. for the year 1885. The entire volume discharged by the river during that year was about 780 million of cubic feet, or 487 million of gallons less than twice the contents of the Coliban reservoir. Mr. Murray will satisfy the trade that it is anticipated that a large area of country will be supplied with water for stock and domestic purposes from the river, and that the operations of the Wimmera Water Trust demonstrate how much may be accomplished with a comparatively small stock of water by a well-conceived and carefully-managed system of regulation and distribution.

Captain Decay, the master of the Nemesis, who at a recent sitting of the Pilot Board was found to be blameworthy for the grounding of that steamer off Point Cook on the 9th ultimo, was summoned before the board yesterday (says the Melbourne Telegraph of Saturday) to show cause why his exempt certificate should not be dealt with. The captain made no defence, and the board at once deliberated on the evidence previously taken, and came to the conclusion that his certificate of exemption from pilotage should be suspended for a period of one calendar month from date. The board added the following note:—"In the course of the inquiry into the grounding of the steamer, Captain Decay was stated in evidence that it is a common practice for steamers masters in going down the bay, and in what they consider safe water, to leave the navigation of these vessels to the officer of the watch. As the two cases just inquired into are the first that came before the board, very light punishment has been awarded, but the board wishes it to be well understood that an exempt master is solely responsible for the safe navigation of his ship while in pilot waters, and cannot delegate the duty to any one else; and, therefore, in any future case that may come before the board in which it is shown that an exempt master has not been carrying out his duties as a pilot, a much more severe penalty will be inflicted."

A MEETING of the Commissioners for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition will be held at the Colonial Secretary's Office at 6 o'clock this afternoon.

The following is the order of musical service at St. Andrew's Cathedral this afternoon:—Antiphon, Arnold, in A; Nunc Dimittis, Arnold, in A; anthem, Whitfield's "In Joy is God's Reward"; organ, "The Lamb"; in E.

Mr. H. A. Lloyd will deliver a lecture to the large hall of the Young Men's Christian Association this evening at 7.45, entitled "What I saw in America."

The following is the report of St. Vincent's Hospital for the week ending 13th March:—Number of patients remaining at hospital at last report, 70 males, 29 females, total, 99; admissions, 11 males, 11 females, total, 22; discharges, 16 males, total, 4; died, 1 female, total, 1; remaining in hospital, 67 males, 31 females, total, 98.

The following is the report of the Sydney Hospital for week ended 13th March:—Admitted, 32 males, 20 females; discharged, 50 males, 21 females; died, 6 males, 2 females; remaining, 165 males, 68 females; casualties treated, but not admitted, 66.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

(BRITISH TELEGRAM.)

CONSTANTINOPLE, MARCH 14. Prince Alexander, of Bulgaria, has ratified the treaty of peace recently concluded between Servia and Bulgaria.

SHIPPING DISASTER IN THE ATLANTIC.

(BY CABLE.)

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, MARCH 13. Intelligence has been received to the effect that the iron steamship Oregon, 7375 tons, belonging to the Cunard line, has been sunk, after being in collision with another vessel in the Atlantic.

STRIKE OF OPERATIVE PAINTERS IN QUEENSLAND.

(BY TELEGRAPH.)

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BRISBANE, MONDAY. The operative painters, to the number of about 50, who were in the employment of master painters who refused to accede to the demands of the men, are out on strike. It is understood that there now remain only some half-dozen men still working at the old rates. A large number were immediately after striking engaged by those who had already acceded to the demands of the men. The master-painters' association has published an advertisement offering rates of wages which are in effect tantamount to those paid under the old rules of the operatives. The operatives believe that all those on strike will ultimately have employment found for them by those who are paying the advanced rates. Eleven of the employees have concurred in the demand of the men.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

(BY ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.)

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

MR. GLADSTONE'S IRISH POLICY. LONDON, MARCH 15. The Times this morning states that Mr. Gladstone intends to propose a loan of £220,000,000, with the object of buying up the estates of the Irish landlords.

EXTENSIVE STRIKE IN AMERICA. LONDON, MARCH 15. An extensive strike of workmen has taken place in the United States, and 51,000 men have stopped work.

DEATH OF GENERAL SIR TREVOR CHUTE. LONDON, MARCH 15. The death is announced of General Sir Trevor Chute, K.C.B., who was formerly in command of her Majesty's forces in Victoria and New Zealand.

(BRITISH TELEGRAM.)

THE OCCUPATION OF THE SOUDAN. LONDON, MARCH 15. The Earl of Rosebery, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, it has transpired, had instructed Sir Henry Wolf that the occupation of the Soudan by British troops should be reduced by six regiments, and has proposed that the British should be withdrawn to Assouan, and that Egyptian troops should be stationed at Wady Halfa. Moukhtar Pasha has, however, hesitated, expressing his belief that this would necessitate large Egyptian reinforcements.

REPULSE OF ARAB REBELS AT HASHIEN. CAIRO, MARCH 16. Latest news from the Soudan reports that a body of friendly Arabs, who were foraging by the garrison at Sunkim, had an encounter with the rebels at Hashien. The rebels were repulsed with the loss of 30 killed.

INTERCOLONIAL NEWS.

(BY TELEGRAPH.)

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

VICTORIA. MELBOURNE, MONDAY. The City Council to-day resolved to exempt all drapers, watchmakers, and jewelers in Melbourne from the operations of the early closing clauses of the Shops and Factories Act.

Patrick Lillis, a lad 17 years of age, was tried at the Central Criminal Court, to-day, on a charge of murdering his brother-in-law, William Byrne, on the night of February 20, at Flemington. During a scuffle in the dark in Byrne's bedroom, the lad stabbed Byrne in the neck, and the latter died almost immediately. The prisoner was found guilty of manslaughter, and sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment with hard labour, the first five days of the first, fourth, seventh, and tenth month in the first, third, fifth, eighth, and tenth years to be spent in solitary confinement.

The broadsheet market is firm, sales making at full prices. Flour sold up to 25c. Wheat is also in good request. Millers do not care to operate at the price demanded. A few trade sales have been effected at 4d. oats. Oats are steady at late rates. There is a good demand. Bran is selling at 12d. In sugars, 50c. Mauritius whites were quoted at full prices. Hops are coming forward freely, and sales are effected up to 10d.

QUEENSLAND.

(BY TELEGRAPH.)

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BRISBANE, MONDAY. The members of the Borough Council were entertained at dinner by Dr. Curtis, the Mayor, on Saturday night. In addition to the aldermen, the Hon. E. Webb, M.L.C.; the Hon. F. B. Suttor, Postmaster-General; and Mr. Lewis Lloyd, M.L.A., were guests. The toast included "Prosperity to Brisbane," which was proposed by Dr. Curtis; "Our Host," proposed by Dr. Spencer; and "Our Member," proposed by Alderman McDougall. An exceedingly pleasant evening was spent by all present.

BOURKE, MONDAY. A meeting is called for this evening in regard to the Government sending the unemployed here. There is no chance whatever of work being obtained. Up to the present 35 have arrived, and they are begging round the town. Some could be beneficially employed in clearing the new road between here and Cobrab, only there are no funds for the work. There is immediate necessity for action.

CAMDEN, MONDAY. The members of the Borough Council were entertained at dinner by Dr. Curtis, the Mayor, on Saturday night. In addition to the aldermen, the Hon. E. Webb, M.L.C.; the Hon. F. B. Suttor, Postmaster-General; and Mr. Lewis Lloyd, M.L.A., were guests. The toast included "Prosperity to Bourke," which was proposed by Dr. Curtis; "Our Host," proposed by Dr. Spencer; and "Our Member," proposed by Alderman McDougall. An exceedingly pleasant evening was spent by all present.

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CANBERRA, MONDAY. The Camden Agricultural Society have completed the ground improvements. Much interest is evinced by visitors in the preparations being made. The committee has engaged a special train to run during the Show, leaving Sydney at 8 a.m. daily.

COLONIAL INSTITUTE.—Instructor Sullivan to Bundaberg has caused great indignation amongst the volunteers at Picton, Campbelltown, and Camden. The authorities are concerned for making the change without giving notice to the corps in the districts named. No fresh appointment has been made at South Grafton and West Grafton.

The co-operative company have raised the price of milk from 9d. to 12c. per gallon.

COONABRA, MONDAY. Labour is scarce, and good wages are being offered.

GRAFTON, MONDAY. The Rev. J. Mackay has now instigated proceedings against the police who held a general meeting of the Prostestant Church on Sunday, the 7th instant. The indictments will be laid under the Criminal Law Amendment Act, the charge being that of obstructing a Minister from discharging his duty.

The Collector of Customs has received the following telegram, dated March 11, from the Customs offices at Geraldton:—"Returned from stranded steamer Glaucom. With favourable weather she will succeed in getting off the reef at spring tide next week. The machinery is still working. The vessel apparently is not much damaged, and purposes going to Townsville.

The broadsheet market is firm, sales making at full prices. Flour sold up to 25c. Wheat is also in good request. Millers do not care to operate at the price demanded. A few trade sales have been effected at 4d. oats. Oats are steady at late rates. There is a good demand. Bran is selling at 12d. In sugars, 50c. Mauritius whites were quoted at full prices. Hops are coming forward freely, and sales are effected up to 10d.

QUEENSLAND.

(BY TELEGRAPH.)

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BRISBANE, MONDAY. Captain Strachan, the New Guinea explorer, arrived from Sydney this morning. The principal object of his visit is, as representative of the British New Guinea Trading and Colonisation Company, to consult the Hon. John Douglas (High Commissioner for New Guinea) regarding matters affecting the company, and to obtain protection for those interests which he has acquired in New Guinea.

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QUEENSLAND.

(BY TELEGRAPH.)

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BRISBANE, MONDAY. The premises of Govey and Son, general stationers, were totally destroyed by fire at 12.30 p.m. on Monday.

The damage is estimated at £2000. The fire was entirely confined to the shop.

COONABRA, MONDAY. The weather was fine and cool.

COONABRA, MONDAY. The Rev. Frank Collingridge, the Roman Catholic chaplain of the New South Wales Contingent, delivered an impromptu lecture in Maitland's Assembly Rooms, Bateman's Bay, last night, the subject being "My Personal Experience in the Sudan." The lecturer tried the British war with the Arab tribes, and the difficulties of the campaign, and how the slaves and revolting creatures disturbed by the late General Gordon fully warranted British interference in the cause of humanity. The lecturer expressed his belief that the proposed railway from Suez to Berlin would be constructed, and that it would prove a great boon to Australia, Britain, and the Colonies, and Christianity in the rich valley of the Nile. Mr. Frank G. J. P., occupied the chair, and a vote of thanks was accorded to the reverend lecturer. Father Collingridge met with an audience on Saturday, while driving to the church of St. Peter's. His horse, however, was frightened by a dog, and the reverend father fell, and carried the buggy against a tree, smashing the vehicle. Father Collingridge and the driver escaped unharmed. Father Collingridge proceeded to Bodalla to take charge of the new church erected by Mrs. Laidley Mort.

COONABRA, MONDAY. Southerly gales have prevailed since Friday. The weather is cold, but no rain has fallen.

COONABRA, MONDAY. The damage done by the late rain is reported to be very considerable. In Launton a large hotel and stores were flooded out; damage being £50 and £60 respectively. At Wallend also heavy losses were sustained.

The weather is cool, with a heavy sea outside. The wind is from the south-west.

WALGETT, MONDAY. The weather fell early yesterday morning, and continued without intermission during the forenoon, amounting to one inch. The weather is now fine.

WILCANNIA, MONDAY. The weather for the past few days has been fine and cool, though the continued dry weather is seriously affecting the crops.

A decided change has taken place in the weather. It has turned quite cold. There are no signs of rain, which is usually wanted, as the grass is growing rapidly.

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WILCANNIA,

Meetings.

THE FIRE BRIGADES ACT, 1884.
ELECTION OF A MEMBER for the Fire Brigades Board by the Councils of municipalities enumerated under Schedule A.

RICHARD MCGOW. Elected, nominated by the Municipal Council of Parramatta.

The POLLING will take place on FRIDAY, the 18th March, at the Town Hall, George-street, commencing at 10 a.m. and ending at 1 p.m.

WILLIAM DAY. Returning Officer.

NEW SOUTH WALES ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The Annual General MEETING of the above Society will be held at the Exchange Hotel on WEDNESDAY, the 1st March, at 5 p.m.

Business:

1. To read the Minutes of the previous annual meeting.

2. To appoint Secretaries and open the ballot for the election of Officers.

3. To read the Auditors' Report.

4. To receive the Report of the Council.

5. To receive the Report of the Scrutinizers on the result of the ballot.

W. H. CAYLETT. Secretary.

26th March, 1886.

Metropolitan Transit Commissioners' Office, 1 Pitt-street, Sydney, 1886.

THE Usual Weekly MEETING of the Metropolitan Transit Commissioners will be held at 12 o'clock noon, on WEDNESDAY NEXT, 17th instant.

W. H. MERRIMAN. Registrar.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

A Public MEETING of Persons Proprietary to the formation of the above, will be held at a Public MEETING at the Hall, Sydney, on TUESDAY, the 16th instant, at 10 o'clock sharp.

Min. Worship the Mayor, J. Young, Esq., J.P., will preside.

FRED. TURNER. Hon.

JOHN GELDING. J. Esq.

MEETING OF VANMINN. will be held on WEDNESDAY, 18th inst., at 6 o'clock, to form union, at salter's hotel, corner of King and Clarence streets.

A. BERRYMAN.

PROTECTION LEAGUE.—Meeting, Wednesday, the 18th instant, at the charge of Mr. Forster's Meeting, Launceston, N.S.W.

BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION. Monthly MEETING of the above Lodge will be held at the Exchange, 266 Pitt-street, THIS (Tuesday) EVENING, at half-past 6 o'clock. **ENOS DYER.** Secretary.

UNITED Furniture Trade and Cabinetmakers' Society. Monthly meeting of above are particularly requested to attend Special Meeting, Pitt-street, Sydney, 1886. No. 6 room, at 6.30. E. W. Cutler, G. Holt, John seurries.

METROPOLITAN TATTERSALLS' CLUB. 185 Pitt-street, Sydney.

The adjourned special ANNUAL MEETING of Members of this Club will be held THIS (Tuesday) EVENING, March 16, at 8 p.m.

Every member requested to attend. H. M. Farwell, Secy.

MASONIC. Lodge Hirson, No. 41.

Monthly MEETING of the above Lodge will be held THIS EVENING, at the Masonic Hall, Castlereagh-street at 7.30. John O'Brien, Secy., Mark A. Tocney, Secretary.

MASONIC. Lodge, Pitt-street, Town Hall, 7.30.

MASONIC. Usury Lodge of Sydney, No. 1160, E. C.

Monthly MEETING, THIS EVENING, at 7 o'clock.

MASONIC. Lodge Redfern, No. 20, N. S. W. C.

Regular Monthly, Town Hall, 7.30 p.m. J. F. Howe, W.M.

LOWE-LORANGE INVESTIGATION OF N.S. WALES.

AN INVESTIGATION OF THE STATE OF N.S. WALES.

—A Public MEETING will be held THIS (Tuesday) EVENING, at 7.30 sharp. J. WHEELER, B.W.G.M., General Secretary.

THE SYDNEY MECHANICAL SCHOOL OF ARTS.—A Public MEETING will be held THIS (Tuesday) EVENING, at 7.30 p.m. to consider the following resolution, of which notice has been given by Mr. E. H. Smith, Hon. Secy. That in the opinion of the majority of the members of this Institution, has forfeited the confidence of its members, and that he be requested to resign his position as a member of the Committee. John H. Smith, Secy.

A USTRALIAN MUTUAL PROVIDENT SOCIETY.

ESTABLISHED 1849.

THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Thirty-seventh Annual MEETING of the Members of this Society will be held in the Chamber of Commerce, Sydney Exchange, Sydney, at 3 o'clock in the Afternoon of WEDNESDAY, 1st APRIL, 1886,

for the purpose of:

1. Receiving the Report of the Directors on the business of the Society for the year ended 31st December, 1885.

2. Electing Directors to fill three Vacancies on the Board.

3. Electing an Auditor in lieu of James Robertson, Esq., who has resigned.

4. Declaring the amount of divisible surplus for the year ended 31st December, 1885.

The Society provides that no member shall at any annual meeting be proposed for the office of director or auditor unless in writing of his being a candidate shall have been given to the Secretary of the Society at least thirty days before the date of such meeting.

By order of the Board.

ALEXANDER J. RALSTON. Secretary.

Head Office, Sydney, 5th March, 1886.

A USTRALIAN MUTUAL PROVIDENT SOCIETY.

ESTABLISHED 1849.

SPECIAL MEETING.

The Hidden Star Gold-mining Company, Temora.

Dear Sirs.—During my recent visit to Temora, I took the opportunity of again visiting your mine, and have to inform you that since I last reported the property, so change of importance has occurred.

The man whom you have employed have cleaned up at the bottom of the deep shaft, and after opening a few feet have entered the main vein of the mine, about 100 feet from the surface. The distance between this part of the Claim and the South Australian line of reef is about 141 feet.

The distance which has been driven on the reef is 141 feet between the two shafts, but the drive is not straight, and the distance between the two shafts is about 140 feet, so that the end of the reef would be about 45 per cent.

In driving from one shaft to the other there have been several turns, and the distance between the two shafts is about 140 feet, so that the end of the reef would be about 45 per cent.

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The Sydney Morning Herald.

COLONIAL AND INDIAN EXHIBITION SUPPLEMENT.

SYDNEY, TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 1886.

NEW SOUTH WALES IN 1886.

The Colonial and Indian Exhibition affords an appropriate opportunity for giving some particulars concerning the characteristics, arts, manufactures, industries, political and social institutions, and general development of New South Wales. In some respects the Exhibition is more important to the people of Australia than its predecessors have been, for it will bring all the dependencies of the Empire into closer association. The colonies and India will meet in London in May in healthy rivalry, and the meeting cannot but be advantageous to the former. To the people in this southern land few things have caused more surprise than the sentiments which prevail in England in regard to India and the colonies. There is believed to exist such a wide disparity between these two sections of the Empire that it has seldom occurred to any Imperial statesman to compare them. India is regarded as a gem of the first water, while the colonies are a stone of an unfashionable colour, and therefore not in great demand in the market. Two centuries ago India laid hold of the European imagination in a remarkable manner. How different the feeling towards the more recently acquired Australasian colonies and Canada! Many times richer than India, whether it regards mineral, pastoral, or agricultural resources, these territories have never stirred in a marked degree the imaginative faculty of Englishmen. They possess no hoary antiquities; they have no history, no traditions; they have no courts of native princes corroborating with barbaric splendour; no monuments carrying the mind back to a period long anterior to the dawn of European civilisation. They are new, and are deemed unworthy of more than a momentary notice. Besides, so far as the Australian colonies are concerned, their civilisation had an extremely objectionable origin; the bar sinister is on their society. Twenty years ago, or less, England would willingly have parted with all her colonies; they were considered to be an encumbrance which, in the interests of national progress, should be removed as speedily as possible. The feeling is different now, but it is by no means enthusiastic in favour of union. To preserve India, Great Britain would willingly spend a hundred millions of money; but even now she would probably grudge disbursing half that sum for the preservation of the colonies. By bringing India and the colonies together in the metropolis of the Empire, the Exhibition may cause a desirable change in the sentiments of English people, and particularly of English statesmen. It may not make them think less of India, but it may induce them to think more of the colonies. It may open their eyes to the fact that in the latter, and not in the former, are contained the promise of national extension and continued national greatness; and so the Exhibition may be a factor in the realisation of an idea which has been largely discussed during the last year or two by men of "light and leading"—the idea of Imperial federation.

The proposal to hold the Exhibition, which is understood to have been first made by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, was a novelty. It was received in the old country with great favour. Several meetings were held to discuss the subject, and it was decided to hold the Exhibition, provided the dependents interested were willing to co-operate, and a guarantee fund of £20,000 was obtained to secure the promoters against loss. It was suggested that India should become responsible for £20,000 and the colonies for £30,000. To the communications that were sent to the authorities in India and the colonies favourable replies were received, and shortly afterwards active preparations were commenced. On November 8, 1884, the Queen issued a commission under the Royal Sign Manual, appointing a number of gentlemen to act as Commissioners in England. The Royal wish, as stated in the document, was that the Exhibition should afford full and suitable representation of the Agriculture, Commerce, Arts, and Industries of the Colonial and Indian dominions. It will be seen from this that it differs essentially from other Exhibitions. The object of previous exhibitions, whether held in England or elsewhere, was to display the products and industries of nations. In such a competition any new country must necessarily appear to great disadvantage, and the more so because raw products have rarely such an effect upon people as manufactured articles. In the present Exhibition all the parties will meet on equal terms, and the British public will see for themselves which colony or dependency gives the greatest encouragement to enterprise. A feature in the rivalry is that it will not consist, except in a limited degree, of the exposition of similar articles, or of examples of the progress which has been made in analogous industries.

When England and Belgium compete, their exhibits consist almost exclusively of manufactured articles representing the several arts and industries; and the real question to be decided is, not which nation is the wealthier, but which is the more ingenious or artistic. Any person who was ignorant of England and Belgium could not have arrived at a very accurate conclusion from the study of the exhibits at London, Paris, or Philadelphia as to which of the two was the richer. The case will be different in this Exhibition. In regard to many things we cannot compete with India. Her principal products are rice, wheat, tea, opium, cinchona, cotton, jute, and indiarubber. With the exception of wheat, none of these arti-

cles grow in Australia. But we produce most of the food cereals; we have the greatest variety of minerals possessed by any country in the world; the fruits of all the zones flower in the land; our wheat is the best that is sent to the English market; our wheat is inferior to none; and our supply of marketable timbers is almost unrivalled. The natural resources of the countries represented at the Exhibition, not the ingenuity of their inhabitants, will be chiefly impressed upon the visitors, and if the representation is fairly complete, there should be no difficulty in deciding which country possesses the greatest variety of natural wealth, and which, therefore, should attract the superfluous energy and wealth of Great Britain to its shores.

But, while the exhibits from the colonies will consist largely of natural products, there will also be a considerable display of arts and manufactures. Australia has not yet given birth to a great painter, unless she can claim to that honour in respect of Mrs. Butler; but on the walls of her courts at the Exhibition will be found pictures by local artists which, it is believed, will draw words of warm admiration from even the severest of critics. There will not be much to indicate that the genius of mechanical invention has deeply inspired our people, but there will be specimens of manufactures which will show that we possess the kind of skill which has done so much towards making the mother country famous, and that, if compulsion were put upon us, we should have no difficulty in producing everything needed to effectually develop our natural resources, and to advance the country to the highest stage of civilisation. Expressed in different form, our exhibits, though not so complete as we could have wished, will prove to all the world that in these lands the British character has been reproduced; that the colonists possess the enterprise, the perseverance, and the ready adaptation to circumstances which have taken the English people to the fore-front of the nations. Even more than this will the Exhibition in general indicate. It will occur to many that no other country since the beginning of history could have organised such a display, and that probably none other will be able to imitate the example. It is called an Exhibition by the dependents of the Empire, but it is in reality a national display, or, more accurately, a universal one, for it will include the products of all climes—Canada, Australia, Africa, India, Fiji. Let all the other countries of the world disappear, and these would produce every article that is now brought into the markets of the world.

In January of last year the Government appointed a local commission, and provided it with a large sum of money to enable it to procure exhibits. It also appointed Sir Patrick Jennings to the position of Executive Commissioner in London. Subsequently Sir Patrick Jennings resigned the appointment, in consequence of his having accepted the office of Colonial Secretary in an Administration which had just been formed; and Sir Alexander Stuart, one of the ablest of our public men, who had been Premier for nearly three years, was selected as his successor. The local commissioners appointed a gentleman to visit the country districts, and obtain the co-operation of the residents to make the exhibits from this colony as complete as possible. His mission was successful. The Government has also appointed Commissioners to represent the colony in London at the Exhibition. Many of these gentlemen are amongst the oldest and most influential of the citizens, and all possess the confidence of the community. The following are their names:

President—The Right Honorable the Earl of Rosebery.
Vice-President—Sir Daniel Cooper, Bart., K.C.M.G., Executive Commissioner for New South Wales in London.—The Honorable Sir Alexander Stuart, K.C.M.G., M.L.C.
Secretary to Commission in London—Captain Augustus Phelan Brooke Loftus.

Members of Commission: The Honorable Robert Parkin Abbott, J.P., M.L.C.; Messrs. Thomas King, Alfred Abbott, J.P., Frederick Chisold, J.P.; Neville David Cohen; Edward Combe, C.M.G., J.P., M.P.; Nathaniel Cork; Frederick Holkham Dancer; Sigmund Hoffnung; the Honorable Edward Knox, J.P., M.L.C.; Mr. Jacob Levi Montefiore; Sir Philip Samuel, K.C.M.G.; the Honorable Sir Saul Samuel, K.C.M.G.; the Honorable Nicholas Fitzgerald; Messrs. Magnus Joseph Pike; Frederick George Mountford; William Gilmore Murray; Randolph Charles Want; Charles Edward Pilkler; John Pope, J.P.; Robert Burdett Smith, J.P., M.P.; James Watson, J.P.; Robert Clarke Cowlishaw; William L. Davis; George Hardie; Francis Hixson, R.N.; William Alston Hutchinson; Christopher Lethbridge; William Alexander M'Arthur; William Briggs, J.P.; Edmund Compton Batt; William Edward Warren; M.L.C.; the Honorable Nicholas Fitzgerald; Messrs. Dout; Alfred Handcock, J.P.; the Honorable William Halliday, M.L.C.; John Hennekin Heaton, M.P.; William Hezlett, J.P.; Randolph Nott; Stephen John Pearson; Eustace Henry Lever Pratt, M.R.C.S.E.; William Robertson; Henry Seward; Edward Percy Simpson; John Tait, sen., J.P.; Frederick Tooth; Frederick Wilson Utter; Walter Hussey Vivian, J.P.; Dr. Duncan, R.N.; Rev. George Brown; P. B. Walker; Evan Jones; Patrick Stanley, J.P.; and Alfred Lamb, J.P.

FEATURAL FEATURES OF THE COLONY.

The extreme length of the colony is 900 miles, its extreme breadth 850 miles, and its mean breadth 600 miles. Its superficial area is 310,938 square miles, and it contains 1,968,260,080 acres. New South Wales is about four times the size of Victoria, but it is only one-third the size of South Australia, and less than half the size of Queensland. Western Australia embraces nearly one-third of the whole continent; therefore this colony is many times smaller than that enormous territory. Home readers will get a better idea of the area of New South Wales when they are informed that it is three times the size of Great Britain and Ireland, and as large as the German Empire and Italy combined, or as France and the United Kingdom. In Australia the rule has been that the number of the population is in inverse ratio to the size of the continent. The colony contains three great natural divisions—namely, the coast district, the tablelands, and the inland plains. The width of the former is from one to five hundred miles. It is bounded on the west by a range of mountains whose lowest altitude is about 2000 feet, and its highest peaks about 7000 feet. The greater part of the coast district is remarkably fertile, and is capable of producing almost anything that can be grown in a temperate or a sub-tropical climate. The value of some of the agricultural land in this district is £120 an acre, at which rate several farms have been recently sold. The tableland is undulating, and, generally speaking, is fairly well watered. A great portion of it consists of beautiful soil suitable for the growth of wheat and many other cereals. The wheat produced in this colony is grown on the tableland. European fruits are also cultivated there with great success. The average width of this district is about 150 miles. Beyond the table land are the western plains, which are occupied almost exclusively by pastoralists. To the spectator they appear to be of illimitable extent. Their dead flatness is sometimes broken by ridges from 10 to 20 feet high, or by thin rows of trees growing by insignificant water-courses. The soil is exceedingly diverse in character. A large portion of it is so barren that as much as 10 acres are required to feed a single sheep all the year round, but the other portion is fertile almost beyond anything that a resident in Europe can imagine. The productive powers of that division of the plains are astonishing; the grass in good seasons is three feet in height, and in some places it has grown to a height of eight feet. The variety of nutritious grasses and edible roots which are indigenous to this territory is remarkable, as many as 40 kinds having been counted within an acre of a few hundred yards. The baron portion of the plains abounds in scrub, but in the other part trees exist only in comparatively small clumps and at wide intervals.

The colony has numerous rivers. All of them, with three exceptions, have their sources in the Great Dividing Range, and flow thence into the sea by the eastern or western watershed. Fourteen receive the eastern drainage. The principal of these are the Hunter, the Hawkesbury, the Clarence, and the Manning. All are navigable, but only for a short distance. The Clarence is the largest of the four; its width at Grafton, a distance of about 50 miles from the sea, is upwards of half a mile. The Hunter drains a large extent of territory, and at its mouth is situated the city of Newcastle, the second largest in the colony. The Hawkesbury is remarkable chiefly for its scenery, which several European travellers have declared to be equal to that on the Rhine. The chief rivers supplied by the western watershed are the Darling, the Murray, the Murrumbidgee, and the Lachlan. The first-named is one of the longest rivers in the world; it is longer than the Nile, but it has its source in New South Wales. It drains an area of 270,000 square miles. The average width of its stream in the summer season is 240 feet, and it has an average depth of about 10 feet. It is navigable for many hundreds of miles. The Lachlan is 700 miles long, and empties into the Murrumbidgee. The latter, which is 1320 miles long, and navigable for 500 miles, discharges into the Murray at Wentworth.

The most important inland lake of New South Wales is Lake George, about 25 miles S.W. of Goulburn, 25 miles in length by eight in breadth. It has an elevation of more than 3000 feet above the level of the sea. Other lakes are Lake Bathurst, about 10 miles E. from Lake George; Tarrago Lake, about seven miles N. of Lake George; Lake Macquarie, near Newcastle; and Lake Illawarra, situated about 50 miles south of Sydney. The colony possesses some magnificent forests; these are unsurpassed for variety and the excellent quality of the timber which they produce. For street-paving and bridge construction, and other works in which timber is subjected to an unusual strain the hardwoods of the country are probably the best in the world. In the Dividing Range referred to, caves are plentiful. Only a small number of these have been explored. There are scores along the course of the Murrumbidgee River, but because of their comparative isolation they are seldom visited. The most notable of these wonders is, probably, the Fitzroy Fall, situated in the ranges about 100 miles S.W. of Sydney. Its charm consists as much in the surrounding scenery as in the volume of water which falls over the cliff. The delineation of the former has exercised the skill of several local artists, but no picture, by whomsoever drawn could represent its marvellous beauty and grandeur. The Warrumbungle Falls, situated a short distance from Katomba, are also well worth a visit. Another remarkable natural feature is the Blue Mountains, in the highest part of the Blue Mountains, known as Govett's Leap. At one end of this depression there is a precipitous cliff, many hundreds of feet in height, and it is from this cliff that the place takes its name. The view from the summit is almost univalved, but it is suggestive of vastness rather than of beauty. Gazing into the profound depths of the gorges, and then onward to its far-distant boundary, the mind is irresistibly carried back to the time when as yet no human being had trodden upon Australian soil, and a sense of awful loneliness steals upon the soul. Katomba itself abounds in attractions. At one spot, about half a mile from the principal hotel, there is an arrangement of the mountains which reflects the human voice, producing a perfect echo. A little further on there is a sequestered nook, a few acres in extent, which is covered with trees from 30 to 40 feet high. Variety of scenery, even more than its delicate climate, is the characteristic of Katomba, and the tourist who visits the locality will not, therefore, be in danger of being wearied by monotony.

New South Wales is well provided with harbours. The principal one is Port Jackson, on which the city of Sydney is situated. The celebrated historian, Mr. J. A. Froude, has recently described it from the scientific point of view. For the rest, it is enough to say that it contains sufficient accommodation for the whole mercantile navy of Europe. Other ports are Twofold Bay, Jervis Bay, Botany Bay, south of the metropolis; Broken Bay, Port Hunter, Port Stephens, Trial Bay, and several large rivers to the north. In this respect the colony possesses a great advantage over the other Australian provinces. Victoria has only two or three good har-

bour. Queensland is better off, but she is far behind the parent colony. The harbours of New South Wales will always be a great factor in enabling her to retain the pre-eminence which she at present enjoys.

CLIMATE.

Within the colony of New South Wales may be found all climates from the cold of Kiandra, where the thermometer sometimes falls eight degrees below zero, and frost and snow hold everything in winter bonds for months at a stretch, to the more than tropical heat and dryness of the inland plains, where frost is never seen, and the thermometer in summer, often for days together, rises from 100° to 116° in the shade, and where the average rainfall is only 12 to 18 inches per annum. The climate generally resembles that of Southern Europe. In nearly every part of the colony the summer heat is great; but in some districts it is far more oppressive than in others. The climate of Sydney is, perhaps, the most trying. This is due to the moisture it receives from the ocean, which produces a disagreeable sensation. Visitors arriving in Sydney in the summer conclude that the climate is typical of the climate throughout the country, and they become prejudiced against it in consequence. But their conclusion is erroneous, for while the heat on the tableland may be equal when tested by the thermometer to the heat in Sydney, it is different in quality, and is in no sense enervating. Even in Sydney the oppressive heat does not last more than four or five weeks; the climate during the remaining portion of the year is almost as perfect as anyone could desire. However hot the days in summer may be on the tableland, the nights, with rare exceptions, are delightfully cool; and as the mountains can be reached by railway in a few hours, it has become the practice for a large number of the well-to-do citizens of Sydney to spend a considerable portion of the summer in that locality. The mountains are, in fact, the sanitaria of the colony; and the temperature is only equal to that of the tableland in winter, when the temperature in the tableland is mild, and the sun bright and inspiring, there are fogs to cool almost as dangerous as those which the tourists have left home to avoid. The annual mean temperature of Sydney is 62° degrees, and that of the tableland 55 degrees. Hot winds are a feature of the climate. These are most severe in November, December, and January. In character the hot wind is the most disagreeable known in Australia. It has a destructive effect upon some kinds of plants, shrivelling up their leaves as if they were frost-bitten. Fortunately, it occurs only seven or eight times in a year; and although it produces languor, it is not harmful to the ordinary constitution. The mean annual rainfall ranges from 60 inches on some parts of the coast to 5 inches in the far west. At Sydney the average is 44.708 inches. In the tableland about 25 inches; and in the pastoral areas beyond from 9 to 15 inches. Taken as a whole, the climate has no superior, the proof of the fact being that the people are as vigorous as either the English or the American race, and the proportion of old people in the colony is larger than it is in any European country.

POPULATION.

The population of the colony is now nearly a million. Thirty-five years ago the number was 265,000. At that time the colony included within its boundaries the provinces of Victoria and Queensland. The frontier was formed into a separate province in 1851; and at the end of that year our population was 197,198. It increased rapidly until 1859, when the separation of Queensland took place. In 1861, or 10 years after the separation of Victoria, the population was 358,278; that is to say, it had almost doubled itself in the decade. In 1871 it had increased to 519,182. From that time until 1879 the net additions were about 30,000 per annum. After that year the growth was much more rapid. But the quickest rate of progress was between 1881 and 1885. During that period the increase was about double that of Victoria. The Government statistic of that colony estimates that in March or April Victoria will contain a million of people, and that New South Wales will achieve the million distinction about two months later. The probability is, however, that this important stage in their history will be reached by the two colonies at the same time. By the end of the year New South Wales will have acquired a strong lead, and there is no reason to suppose that she will ever again be overtaken.

According to the census of 1881, the nationalities of the residents of this colony were as follows:

Born in New South Wales 465,559
Born in other Australian colonies 1,643
Aborigines 1,643
Born in Great Britain, Ireland, and other British Isles 208,512
Born in Foreign countries 28,516
Unaspected and born at sea 751,468

The following were the ecclesiastical divisions of the population:

Church of England 342,359
Roman Catholic 207,029
Protestant Nonconformists 64,049
Wesleyan Methodist 7,303
Other Methodists 14,328
Congregationalists 7,307
Baptists 3,202
Presbyterians 2,957
Hebrews 828
Unitarians 828
Unspecified persuasions 14,739

As is the case in all the Australian colonies, the males in New South Wales outnumber the females; but the disparity is less than it is in some other places. At the end of 1884 the males numbered 511,257, and the females 410,011. For every 10,000 single men living in each colony in 1881 there were the following number of single women:—Victoria, 11,954; Tasmania, 11,604; South Australia, 10,825; Queensland, 6158; Western Australia, 5575. So the chances for marriage to a girl in that year were greatest in Western Australia and Queensland, and least in Tasmania and Victoria. It may be mentioned that in 1881 97 per cent of the marriageable women in Queensland entered into matrimony, 74 per cent of those living in New South Wales, and only 49 per cent of those living in Victoria. Unless polygamy be legalised in the last-named colony, a large proportion of the marriageable women must therefore always live in single blessedness. The marriage rate in Australia is higher than that of any European country except Hungary.

The birth-rate in the colony is 37 per 1000 of the mean population. That is in excess of the rate in the United Kingdom. The following are the mean death-rates per 1000 of the mean population:—New South Wales, 14.52; Victoria, 14.18; Queensland, 18.82; South Australia, 14.62. The mean

for England and Wales is 21.3, and for Scotland 21.5. There has not been much fluctuation in the rates during the last five years. Infantile mortality is almost twice as great in Great Britain as it is in the Australian colonies. Zymotic diseases, which affect young people chiefly, are the most destructive; but their power is steadily abating. When they were most active, however, the proportion of the population which they carried off in the colonies was one-third less than that proportion slain thereby in England and Scotland. Brain and lung diseases have their victims; but the relative number, compared with those who die by these in old age, is as 50 to 90. On the other hand, digests and diarrhoea are relatively more numerous in Australia than in England. Typhus occurs frequently, but it is in consequence of the carelessness of the people. The authorities are now alive to the necessity of grappling with the disease, and there is reason to believe that in the course of a few years cases of it will rare as to make it almost unnoticed.

The population of the colony is unevenly distributed. There is a tendency amongst the people in Australia, as there is in some other countries, to gravitate towards the cities and large towns. The population of the colony at the last census was 781,265. Of this number 220,984, or considerably more than one-fourth, were located in Sydney and its suburbs. The following are the exact proportions:—Sydney and suburbs, 29.40 per cent; towns and villages, 28.26 per cent; and the rural districts, 41.32 per cent. Since 1871 there has been a large increase in the number of towns containing a population of over 1000 persons. In that year the number was 28; 10 years later it was 59; and now it is considerably in advance of the last-mentioned number. The extension of the railways is having the effect of creating inland towns and of distributing the population, and that result is in every respect satisfactory.

THE ABORIGINES.

When the early discoverers of Australia landed upon these shores the aborigines were much more numerous than they are at present. The immense tracts of country, however, even in this colony alone, can only have been very sparsely inhabited by these nomad tribes. Ethnologists differ widely in their opinions as to which of the great families of the human race the aborigines properly belong. In many respects they seem closely allied to the Papuans, though with many marked characteristics which are peculiar to themselves. Wallace holds them to be distinct from the Papuans, and says that they are the survivors of an ancient and peculiar race. It is not improbable that the present race is formed by the admixture of some successful invaders, say from amongst the hill tribes of Decan, with the original inhabitants, of which the now extinct Tasmanians were the surviving type. This is the theory of Mr. A. W. Howitt, and few men are more competent to give a decided opinion in the matter. The typical Australian native is nearly as tall as the average height of Europeans, but is not so muscular, though quite equal to them in general activity. He is essentially a hunter, who can endure fatigue and suffer hunger, but who is not disposed to bear any very heavy burden, suffer continual restraint, or to continue long at hard daily toil. Of a dark chocolate-brown colour, with not unpleasing features, prominent lips, deep-set eyes, overhanging brows, full-bearded, and with thick, straight, or rather curly black hair, he may be taken as the typical savage. His dress is of the very scantiest character; and in some districts, indeed, he wears none at all.

Of the social life of the aborigines, but comparatively little is known by means of which we can safely class them with any other of the great peoples of other lands. They are singularly like some of the Western Pacific tribes in their customs and social organisation, whilst others are widely different from them. Like some of the tribes which inhabit the Western Pacific groups, they are divided into two or more social classes, and the strict rules which apply to intermarriage are alike in both. These divisions are exogamous, and no male can marry a female in the same class as himself. Descent is traced through the mother, so that all children from any marriage are necessarily of the same class division as the mother herself. In many tribes marriage is merely a question of purchase, though sometimes by capture; and the custom is also frequent, whilst betrothal from early infancy is also common in most districts. The languages spoken in Australia differ widely in the words used, but the grammatical structure is practically alike in all the districts. Very few of the words used are found in the dialects of the island groups. Many of their customs, however

COLONIAL AND INDIAN EXHIBITION SUPPLEMENT TO THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD.

But there has always been a strong current of public feeling in favour of the elective principle; and the change, with some special provision against deadlocks, may yet be made. The Legislative Council now consists of 58 members.

A property qualification is not required for membership in either the Legislative Council or the Legislative Assembly. Members must be of full age and either natural-born or naturalised subjects of the Queen. For the Assembly anybody who is qualified to be an elector may be elected a member. The electoral lists are made up once a year, and residents in an electoral district for six months, by making up of the list, qualify a man to have his name placed on it. A non-resident may be elected on the ground of his having in the district a freehold or leasehold of the value of £100, or of his receipt of rent and profits of the annual value of £10 from freehold or leasehold, or of his occupation of premises of that annual value, or that he holds a pastoral lease or license from the Crown. Whatever number of qualifications an elector may hold in a given district, he can have but one vote there; but he may have a vote in any number of districts where he possesses qualification and is entered on the roll. Elections are conducted with open nominations and the ballot. At present the Legislative Assembly consists of 122 members, representing 72 electorates. The Electoral Act was passed in 1850. The number of members then was 108. The additional 14 have been gained by the operation of provisions under which the increase in the number of electors in any district entitles that district, within certain limits and upon certain conditions, to return an additional member. The object of these provisions was to establish a self-acting system by which the distribution of the representation should be adjusted to the changing conditions of the colony without resort to special legislation from time to time. There are, however, already indications that if this principle of self-adjustment is to continue in force, some change will have to be made in the rate of progression. If the number of members should go on increasing as rapidly as it has during the last six years, it might soon be found inconvenient to equalise the supply of good men with the demand for them. Election petitions and questions as to the qualification of sitting members are referred to a Committee of Elections and Qualifications within the Assembly for disposal. An Electoral Bill, introduced before the last Act was passed, proposed the adoption of the English system by giving the jurisdiction to Judges of the Supreme Court. The scheme, however, met with opposition, and was abandoned.

The Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly have, under the Constitution Act, co-ordinate powers, except as to money bills, which must originate in the Assembly. But the Assembly has always disputed, and the Council has rarely exercised, the right of the Upper House to amend bills of that class received from the Assembly. In this, as in other matters, the precedents and analogies of the Imperial Parliament are generally followed. Thus the Government is carried on by an Executive Council, the members of which, sitting for the most part in the Assembly, retain their seats under the condition of possession of the confidence of that House. In the fact that the colony has this elaborate machinery for its own self-government is to be found one of the chief reasons why it declines to place itself within the jurisdiction of the so-called Federal Council of Australasia, which, as a Legislature of one Chamber, and that consisting of about a dozen members, is essentially unworthy of trust.

The politics of the colony are not those of the mother country. The community cannot be classified as of two sections, Liberals and Conservatives; neither is there such a division in Parliament. The questions of the suffrage and the ballot were fought out long ago. Since then we have abolished State aid to religion and to Denominational schools, and have set up a State system of education, with modified compulsion and nominal fees, throughout the length and breadth of the land. It may be broadly said that we are all Liberals, more or less, and that, so far as we have anything resembling party action, it is determined rather by personal preference and prejudices, which give strength to personal leadership, than by any broad distinction of political principle. And another potent influence in political affairs may be traced to the peculiar circumstances of the colony. The Government has a vast public estate to administer, and the political support of classes interested in its administration has been affected by varying views of land policy. The Government, moreover, constructs and works the railways, builds bridges and makes roads, improves harbours, and undertakes public works of many kinds throughout the colony. A member's election or retention of his seat may be affected by his willingness and his ability to promote local expenditure. A Ministry may owe its command of a majority of votes in a greater or smaller degree to its distribution of local expenditure. Under these conditions the purely political element in our politics is not always in evidence, and it is generally acknowledged that there is room for beneficial change. Local government of a comprehensive kind is, however, likely to be introduced before long, and to that we are looking as a means of improvement.

THE LAND SYSTEM.

Under the Constitution Act of New South Wales, which became law in 1855, her Majesty surrendered all "territorial, causal, and other rights of the Crown, from whatever source arising, within the said colony," and power was given to the Legislature of the colony "to make laws and regulations for the sale, letting, disposal, and occupation of the waste lands of the Crown within the said colony." This power was fully exercised in 1861, when two comprehensive statutes were passed—the one regulating the alienation of Crown lands, the other regulating their occupation under different forms of tenure. The land system set up under these statutes remained substantially in force, though modified at some points by later legislation, until 1884, when the laws at that time in operation were repealed, and a new system, sharply distinguished from the old one, in some material points, but approximating to it at others, was introduced. Under the old law an immense extent of Crown land had passed by acts into private hands, and leasehold occupation for pastoral purposes had spread over almost the whole remaining area of the colony. The old tradition of a great central desert in the interior of the continent has been dispelled. The place where Burke, the explorer, perished of thirst, in 1861, is now within the bounds of settlement. Land which was condemned as worthless 20 years ago has been brought into occupation of some sort by the expenditure of large sums of money on fencing, water-conservation, and other improvements. Whilst, on the other hand, the development of our resources has been checked by the scanty rainfall and the lack of many navigable rivers, pastoral enterprise enjoys the rare advantage of a climate which permits the keeping of stock in the open country throughout the year, and there are large tracts of territory which possess nutritious saltbush and herbage that stock will feed and fatten upon where no grain is to be seen. Advantages as these conditions are, they have complicated the problem of land legislation. It has always been the desire of our legislators to promote settlement by alienation, and therefore easy terms of purchase have been held out to intending settlers. At the same time, leasehold occupation has been encouraged, and the leaseholders having acquired actual possession, difficulties arose between them and the special class of purchasers on conditional terms by whom they were liable to be dispossessed. The object of the recent change in the law was to bring these difficulties down to a minimum or to an end.

The Act was passed in 1884. Through circumstances connected with the change of system, the transactions of the following year were comparatively unimportant. The condition of the public estate, as set forth by competent authority at the beginning of 1885, may be taken as differing little from that which now prevails. Taking the area of the colony at 140,000,000 acres, the proportion alienated was estimated at 87,000,000 acres. Of the remainder, about 104,000 square miles, or 124,000,000 acres, were held on the condition of pastoral leases. The position before the Legislature in 1884 was how to provide abundant facilities for the purchase of land for freehold settlement, without unnecessary disturbance to the actual occupiers; or, in other words, how to encourage at once and the same time freehold settlement—and until the land was required for that purpose—leasehold occupation, and meanwhile to provide against conflict between the two interests. The Act of 1884 was passed after an appeal to the country upon this question. Its leading principles had been laid before Parliament prior to the dissolution. The

new Parliament had the bill under consideration for the greater part of a year. The scheme is elaborate, and full of detail; but we give here an outline of its chief features.

In the first place, the colony is divided into three parts: the Eastern division, containing some 60 million acres; the Central division of some 55 million acres; and the Western, of nearly 80 million acres. The colony is bounded on the east by the ocean, and the larger and less variable rainfall in the Eastern division, together with other natural advantages, have led it to be more thickly settled than the others. The Central division, though less favourable in some respects, possesses natural resources which only await the application of capital and labour, with improved means of communication, for their development. The Western division is the great pastoral territory, and contains tracts of land that may be said to be in course of reclamation by the conservation of water. The territorial division of the colony is the basis for distinctions in the administration of the public estate, modifications of the general system being introduced into different divisions to meet local conditions.

Starting with the fact that in the introduction of the new system the greater part of the unalienated public estate was under leasehold occupation for pastoral purposes, the first step taken under the new law was to divide each of the holdings or "runs" into two roughly equal parts. Over the one of these the lessor is granted a tenure for a term of years, secure against disturbance except for public purposes. These lands are therefore practically reserved from sale until the lease expires. The other half in each case is resumed from the tenure under which it had been held, and the land within it is thrown open for sale by such modes and under such conditions as the law prescribes. The occupation of these resumed areas until the land is sold is permitted under an annual occupation license. Under the old system the whole of the run (except portions specially reserved) was open to sale at the will of any who might choose any part of it for purchase.

Lands open to sale may be purchased in several ways, but the chief are by public auction and conditional purchase. Land offered for sale by auction is surveyed beforehand and subdivided by the Government beforehand and subdivided by the Government, and the Council has rarely exercised, the right of the Upper House to amend bills of that class received from the Assembly.

In this, as in other matters, the precedents and analogies of the Imperial Parliament are generally followed. Thus the Government is carried on by an Executive Council, the members of which, sitting for the most part in the Assembly, retain their seats under the condition of possession of the confidence of that House. In the fact that the colony has this elaborate machinery for its own self-government is to be found one of the chief reasons why it declines to place itself within the jurisdiction of the so-called Federal Council of Australasia, which, as a Legislature of one Chamber, and that consisting of about a dozen members, is essentially unworthy of trust.

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Attached to the system of conditional purchase there are provisions which enable the purchaser to obtain a conditional lease of Crown land adjoining his purchase, if there be enough available, to the extent of three times the area of his purchased land, at a rent of not less than 2d. per acre, and under the condition that within two years the land must be fenced. At the end of five years the conditional lease has the right of conditionally purchasing the whole or any part of the leased land, without reserving upon it; or he may obtain an extension of the lease for another period of five years, without the preference of the purchase.

The resources of the colony have developed a commerce of unparalleled extent. The imports for the year ended January 1, 1885, were valued at £22,826,000 and the exports at £18,261,000, representing a total trade of £41,077,000, equal to £44 12s. per head of the population. The trade of South Australia equalled £30,000,000; the gas companies, £300,000. Within the past three years a number of private businesses have been formed into public companies, and fully £1,000,000 of capital is represented in co-operative enterprises of this character.

No doubt a considerable part of this wealth belongs to British capitalists, who have been pushing their money in this direction in increasing amounts for years past. What is the value of British capital in the colony cannot be exactly told. It has been estimated at £60,000,000 to £80,000,000, including public and private investments. And on the

present basis, no less than £2,890,500 of this amount was expended on the department of the Secretary for Public Works, including about £1,700,000 on the general working of the railways. Another important item was the road and bridge expenditure, amounting to £751,000. On public works and buildings £2,06,000 was spent, whilst the improvement of harbours and rivers absorbed £150,000. The railway and public works expenditure is, exclusive of £1,230,441 paid as interest on the public debt, entirely incurred for railways and public works. A sum of £63,972 was spent on public instruction.

And this leads us to the public debt, which now amounts to £25,500,000. Without explanation the magnitude of these figures in relation to the population would seem very great. The debt is equal to £26 5s. per head. New Zealand, Queensland, and South Australia are still more heavily indebted. But as the debts of all these colonies have been incurred mainly for railways and reproductive works, and are represented by those works, most of them increasing in value from year to year, they cannot in any sense be compared to the great debts of the mother country, of European nations, or of the United States, most of which are the products of destructive wars. Against the debt of this colony are to be set railways, which have cost about £25,000,000, and other public works, most of them of a reproductive character to the full value of the debt.

But the squatter of the present time is widely distinct from the pioneer of 50 years back. Instead of the block-drift, which was so slowly drawn over bush tracks with the load of supplies, a journey of a few hundred miles often occupying months, there is the railway track, which covers as great a distance in 24 hours. Instead of the rough slab hut, with its bark roof, there is the brick or stone mansion. The home-made furniture is dispensed by the choicest specimens of cabinet-work. The old shepherd, with his dog and his sheep, has disappeared, and his fences and boundary-riders having rendered his faithful services unnecessary. In fact the interior has been modernised, and "bush life" is no longer the rough mode of existence which novelists and dramatists occasionally portray.

A comprehensive historical sketch of pastoral settlement would occupy too much of our space; suffice to say that, although much has been accomplished, there is yet much to do. Under present conditions the stock-owner is almost completely at the mercy of the seasons. If the rainfall of a year is equal to the average, he smiles, for his pursuit is very profitable; but if there is what is known as a drought, he is in the short period of six months lose more than one-half of his flocks or herds. There are very few stacks of fodder, and not many reserve stores of water. The plough is seldom used. In unpropitious seasons there are heavy losses which, for the greater part, might be easily averted. The soil is sufficiently fertile to yield large crops. The 200,000,000 acres, if properly treated, could successfully support many more than 40,000,000 sheep. A praiseworthy effort is being made to bring about a change in pastoral work. A commission, whose special mission is the encouragement of water conservation and irrigation, has obtained much valuable evidence and published useful practical reports. Legislation in the matter is promised. Before many years elapse the premier pastoral colony may be rendered almost drought-proof.

The breeding and the rearing of stock is now conducted in a systematic and a scientific manner. The climate is admirably suitable for the purpose. There are no severe winters to encounter. The keeping of stock is quite unnecessary. Nearly all kinds of useful live stock have their native characteristics. Horses, from the highest class of British, draught to the diminutive Timor, are well-bred. The blood horses are equal to the best of Britain; the hackneys are the hardiest in the world. In cattle, as much success has been achieved. There are herds of Durhams, Devons, and Herefords, as purely bred as are the principal herds in England. Ayshires, Aldermans, polled stock, and other bovine breeds are also well represented. Improved breeds of pigs, the best England can furnish, and choice varieties of poultry, are kept. The breeders are not niggardly in the matter of obtaining fresh strains from other parts of the world. There are very few diseases. Anthrax fever, or Cuckoo bird, is the most troublesome; but there is no scab, no foot-and-mouth. A well-organised stock department guards the ports, and there is an effective system of quarantine.

It is, however, with fine-wooled sheep that the greatest success has been reached. The Australian merino stands in the front rank of all classes of useful stock. It has taken about 60 years to bring the flocks to their present almost perfect state. The best blood of Spain, Germany, and France judiciously blended, aided by a favourable climate, has produced wool, the absence of which would be a blow to manufacturers of clothing material. The average clip of the merino sheep of the colony is about 5lb. of woolly per sheep. In some instances, flocks yield double that quantity. Stud sheep frequently weigh as much as 20lb. each; but in the majority of cases the paddock sheep carry a light fleece of fair quality, which is eagerly competed for in the London market. Some stations shear as many as a quarter of a million sheep, but 20,000 are considered sufficient to stock a large tract of country. Many farmers derive a profit from keeping a few hundred sheep.

Ordinary farming, such as is the rule in older countries, has made much progress in New South Wales, simply because pastoral pursuits proved more attractive to the majority of the settlers. Quite sufficient, however, has been done to prove that the soil of many large districts is wonderfully fertile, and that nearly all varieties of cereals can be produced in the greatest commercial value in the world. There are very few diseases. Anthrax fever, or Cuckoo bird, is the most troublesome; but there is no scab, no foot-and-mouth. A well-organised stock department guards the ports, and there is an effective system of quarantine.

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and are now in course of construction, including a line from Waverley to Randwick and another to Platfburg, in the Newcastle district. Although the trains do not offer the most desirable means of transit, yet their value is demonstrated by the immense crowds who at the busy times of the day use these to get between their homes in the suburbs and their business places in the city. Daily, however, it is becoming more apparent how utterly inadequate they are to the passenger traffic of the metropolis, and the agitation for the substitution of railways is growing. In few large cities have the people to go so far from the business part of the city to a railway terminus, and the demand for the extension of the lines into Sydney can hardly fail to be effective in giving the people of the suburbs the much-needed accommodation. No part of the railway system pays better than the suburban lines, and to the stranger it is a matter of surprise that the various Governments have failed to construct for passengers a railway to the waters of Port Jackson. And whilst the extension of the railway into the city is needed, the tremendous growth of population in the eastern suburbs indicates the want of a railway to take the people to the sea coast in the neighbourhood of Waverley and Randwick.

ROADS.

Although the construction of railways has greatly reduced the traffic on the main roads of the colony, the maintenance of these and of other roads has been deemed an essential feature in the development of the resources of the colony. And no doubt it should be. But it is generally felt that the cost should be borne not by the general revenue, but by provincial or shire councils, such as have been formed in some other colonies, or by such municipal councils as have been formed in the most populous towns and districts of New South Wales. These bodies undertake the maintenance of roads within their own boundaries by means of rates levied from residents. An extension of this system, that will exclude from the public works vote all such local works as road-making, bridge construction, and the like, is felt to be necessary. Legislation to this end has been projected, and cannot long be postponed. In the meantime the roads are graded into various classes, and every year votes for their repair are granted by Parliament: from £5 to £200 per mile, and in some instances even higher figures, is granted. At the present time 200,000 miles of road are in charge of the officers of the Road Department; on these have been constructed 67 miles of bridges, 500 watercourses, 400 miles being of stone and iron. Forty-two miles of earthenware pipes have been laid down for water-courses. In addition to these roads there are 1815 miles of roads, under the Department of Roads, in charge of trustees. It may also be stated that there are 89 ferries in charge of the department, worked by wire ropes, seven being moved by steam. The total public expenditure on roads and bridges for the year 1885 amounted to £781,807.

At one time tolls were levied on the roads to eke out the cost of construction. But on the ground of the expense of collection, and at a time when the public Treasury was flush of money, the tolls were abolished, and have not since been reimposed.

Except in the incorporated cities and towns, where the roads are in some cases constructed of wood, and asphaltum, the general method of road-making is with metal, in quality according as it may be accessible, and in quantity according to the amount of the road vote. The roads are, as we have said, graded according to their assumed importance and traffic, though political influence often gets a high-priced road where a low-priced one would suffice. Sometimes a well-frequented thoroughfare does not secure justice, but as a rule the roads get a larger outlay than they are entitled to at the public expense. Any inequality would doubtless best be remedied by a system of local rating subjected to local supervision.

The Roads branch of the Public Works Department has also charge of the construction of tanks and wells in the interior. The works undertaken consist of 96 tanks, 30 wells, 15 dams, or a total of 189 of all kinds, nearly all of which are completed, and the remainder nearly so. The water having to be lifted into drinking troughs, these works are provided with 42 steam pumps, 37 horse-power pumps, 28 well-heads, 6 pump lifts, 1 windmill. In addition to the following services there are 1815 miles of roads, under the Department of Roads, in charge of trustees. It may also be stated that there are 89 ferries in charge of the department, worked by wire ropes, seven being moved by steam. The total public expenditure on roads and bridges for the year 1885 amounted to £781,807.

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POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH.

It will be generally admitted that the colony has made ample provision for postal and telegraphic communication within its extensive area. Our inland mails are carried by railway, by steamship, by coach, on horseback, and on foot, from the metropolis to the remotest boundaries. Externally, the Government has subsidized mail communication with Europe and America; and as Sydney is now connected with almost every important part of the world by steam service, and with the islands of Polynesia by the frequent visits of steamships or sailing vessels, there is no want of means of postal communication with any considerable or incon siderable part of the world.

At the end of 1884 there were in the colony 1085 post-offices, 200 receiving offices, 382 iron letter receivers, 21 receiving boxes, 15 newspaper receivers. There were at the General Post Office 814 private letter boxes, besides 55 allotted to public departments. Other postal facilities included 147 letter-carriers, of which 102 were employed in Sydney and suburbs; and there were special arrangements for a house-to-house delivery in about 60 places other than those served by the ordinary letter-carriers. Including 549 mail-contractors, the total number of persons employed in connection with the Postal Department of the colony was no fewer than 2025. Considering the comparatively limited population, it is not to be denied that there has been a very liberal provision made for their postal requirements.

The total expenditure of the Post and Telegraph Office, Money Order and Government Savings' Bank departments, for the year 1884, amounted to £263,295.

The sum was £195,693. The extent of the service rendered may be gauged by the fact that the total correspondence was represented by the following figures:—39,644,700 letters, 23,392,000 newspapers, 2,791,700 packets, and 296,300 post-cards; all these figures showing a marked increase on those for the preceding year.

The telegraphic system is hardly less complete. With every important foreign centre of civilisation and commerce, the European cable gives us prompt communication. Cables to New Zealand and Tasmania join Australia with the leading insular colonies. The country is intersected by telegraphic lines, which connect every important and many unimportant towns and villages, and afford their inhabitants the means of instantaneous communication with one another and with the outer world. At the end of 1884, the date of the last published statistics, 894 telegraphic stations were open in the colony, the extent of wire in use being 18,081 miles; these figures showing an increase of 26 stations and 1408 miles of wire for the year. The total cost of the lines was £601,459. The year's revenue was £146,880; the expenditure £171,438, including £12,617 for British-Australian cable subsidy, and £2500 for New Zealand cable subsidy. The total staff of the Telegraph Department was 1045. The total number of telegrams wired in New South Wales was 5,829,706. A message of 10 words is transmitted over the lines of the two colonies at 1s, and over those of the three colonies at 1s. 6d., with 2d. and 3d. for each additional word respectively. When we consider the large area of country to be traversed, the sparseness of the population, it cannot be denied that the colony has a postal service of which it has reason to be proud. And the aim of the authorities to give some kind of postal facilities of communication to very small numbers of people in the remotest parts of the territory has been attained with gratifying results.

MANUFACTURING ENTERPRISE.

Amongst the varied interests of this colony there are those that will bear a closer scrutiny, or give greater cause for satisfaction, than the manufacturing in

industry. It has never been the policy of New South Wales to draw blood from the veins of other industries for the purpose of therewith building up manufacturing prosperity. The colonists have been left to follow the occupations which individually they have found most profitable, and with their hands thus free they have achieved a position for the colony of which they may well be proud.

It was natural to expect that the particular requirements of a new country would receive early attention.

It is therefore no wonder that the manufacture of coaches, wagons, carts, &c., has become considerable. At the present time about 2000 men are thus occupied, the larger portion of them in the country districts. The productions of many firms engaged in this industry are of remarkable excellence, and will bear comparison with those of any country. Buggies—single and double—are largely made, and also hansom cabs; the ordinary English "four-wheeler" is almost unknown in this colony. Of course, the usual varieties of carriages, waggonettes, phaetons, &c., are also made, as well as omnibuses, and lorries, drays, vans, &c. The manufacture of saddlery and harnesses has attained a high degree of importance. More than 1000 men are employed in this industry. The advantages of plentiful supply of colonial leather have been well utilized, and with the growth of the colonial demand for saddlery, the harnesses there has been a corresponding increase in the manufacture, the number of establishments devoted to it having more than doubled within the last 10 years. Having referred to leather, it may be well to turn our attention further to that article. It is impossible to give the figures representing the whole of the make of leather, but as our exports exceed an annual value of £100,000, and we retain sufficient to give employment to not less than 3000, or 4000, hands in the making of boots, shoes, saddlery, and harness, it is clear that the total amount of leather produced in New South Wales is very large. As we are exporting hides to the annual value of more than £200,000, it is also evident that there is abundant scope for a further extension of this industry. It must be admitted that there is room for improvement in the quality of much of the colonial leather. The process of tanning is too hurried to produce the best quality; this is a fault which will doubtless be gradually remedied. The boot and shoe industry is a large one. Excluding those in which less than six hands were employed, it appears that at the close of 1884 we had 68 establishments devoted to this business, and employing in all considerably more than 2000 hands—less than one-fifth being females. If the smaller establishments were added, the total would doubtless be very considerably increased. Nearly two-thirds of the leather produced in New South Wales is exported to the Australian colonies, to that extent.

The tobacco industry is also one of importance. Several of the firms in this manufacture have built very large factories; they employ 600 or 700 hands, an average of about 100 to each manufactory.

Tobacco and cigars are used very freely in the colony, and the industry will, before long, doubtless attain larger dimensions.

The manufacture of food products is a growing one. Corn flour is made in two manufactories, and besides being largely used in New South Wales, is exported to several of the other colonies; the quality is very good.

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and in these every provision was made for the pressing and the loading of wool; but the splendid machinery, costing, it is said, thousands of pounds, has remained idle, owing to the firm deciding subsequently not to take up the shipment of wool. The gigantic progress which has been made by the colony during the past decade is strikingly illustrated by the magnificent vessels which now do the bulk of our trade with the outside world. The P. and O. Company have long had a connection with the Australian colonies, which has been kept up till the present time; and the finest ships in their magnificent fleet, including the Roma, Carthage, Massilia, Veleeta, Coronel, Bengal, &c., are now regular visitors.

At one time the company was content with placing their older ships on the line between London and the Australian colonies; but finding that the undoubted position they held here at one time was being successfully assailed by newer and more vigorous companies, they took prompt steps to maintain their superiority.

Ranking next to the P. and O. Company, so far as trade is concerned, is the Orient Company, holding a higher place in the opinion of the commercial community of New South Wales because, to that company

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fully Irish Superannuation Act of 1864; and from 1873 to 1884, the public service of this colony was entirely without statutory regulation, and, except so far as the annual grant for pensions of £23,500 fixed by the Constitution Act provided a superannuation fund for some few officers, was entirely without any system, either of voluntary or compulsory retirement. The public service had now become a large and influential body, and mainly recruited from the public service, and, educated in the colony, and claimed attention by reason of its large dimensions, its want of internal control, and regulation, its accumulations of useless officers (whose services, nevertheless, could not be dispensed with), its dependence on the fortuitous favour of influential members of Parliament for the appointment and promotion of officers, and for the exceptional reward of retiring allowances by special legislation, and its condition continued to exercise the statesmanship of successive Administrations from that year down to 1884, when Sir Alexander Stuart, after an abortive attempt made some years before, finally induced the Legislature to pass the Act which now, for the first time, regulates the entire service, and provides it with a system of superannuation for the second time. The principal features of this Act, the Civil Service Act, 1884, are—1. The classification of all officers in the public service, with the exception of public teachers and officers employed in the Department of Public Instruction, employed in the Railway or any other department engaged under special regulations, messengers, housekeepers, letter-carriers, stampers and sorters, bailiffs, warders, nurses, boatmen, and persons in the printing and telegraph, dredge, and marine services, and others filling similar positions. With these exceptions, the public service is distributed into three great divisions—the general, the professional, and the educational divisions. The general division includes six classes and a probationary class, arranged according to the salary granted by the Appropriation Act of 1884. For the first class the salary is not less than £800. The other classes range down to salaries under £200. The professional division contains four classes and a cadet or junior class, the limit for the first class being £900. The educational division includes all persons employed in the Department of Public Instruction; but the Act makes no provision for their classification. Upon this system of classification according to salary depends the yearly increase provided by the Act. Excluding officers with salaries of £1000 or more per annum in the general division, and of £1200 or over in the professional division, all other classified officers receive annual increases—in the first class of £20, in the second and third of £25, and in any other class of £20. With respect to the employees exempt from classification under the Act, those governed by section 7 receive only such increases as their regulations provide; those enumerated in section 8 are limited to an annual increase of £10. An officer who has received his maximum classification salary for four years may, by order of the Government, be promoted to the class next above him, and receive the minimum rate in that class. But no officer can thus enter the first class in either division.

The professional division includes engineers, surveyors, barristers, solicitors, medical officers, and other persons classified as professional by the board subject to the Governor's approval. The general division includes all officers other than those in the professional or educational division.

An officer's classification is not altered by any Parliamentary increase to, or reduction of, his salary; but neither reduction of salary nor abolition of office gives a claim for compensation.

The estimates of each year are required to be prepared as to show under the head of every department the number of officers to be employed in each class, and the aggregate of their salaries; and for the purpose of comparison the same information for the year previous is shown in a parallel column.

The Civil Service Act provides, for the first time, a uniform system of appointment and promotion. Admission to the service and advancement within it are now withdrawn from the patronage of Ministers, and the not always discriminating favour of members of Parliament. Public opinion is unanimous in regarding this reform as one of the most valuable in the Act, and most members of the Legislature express satisfaction at the relief thus extended them from the almost intolerable importunities of their constituents.

The Act is administered ministerially by the Colonial Secretary; but the Civil Service Board, a body composed at the present time of four public officers of high standing, and one gentleman unconnected with the public service, is the department which works the Act. The members of the board at the present time are the Hon. Geoffrey Eagar (chairman), with official colleagues—Mr. John Williams (Crown Solicitor), Mr. Goodchap (Commissioner for Railways), and Mr. A. C. Fraser (Clerk of the Peace), and Mr. Littlejohn as the fifth and non-official member. All members of the board are appointed by the Governor, and are remunerated by fees. The duties imposed on the board are of a very onerous, responsible, and often delicate character. On the 31st March last the board published the first Civil service list ever compiled in the colony. It is a formidable document of 174 pages, and exhibits the names and classification of every officer in the service within the respective divisions. According to this list, it appears that in the year 1885 the general division (within its six classes and probationary class) comprised 1725 persons, the professional division (within its four classes) 142 persons, the educational division 810 persons; that the temporary employees numbered 1115 persons, and that those included under section 7 of the Act numbered 3214 persons; those under section 8 numbered 2085 persons. The Civil Service Act therefore operates upon 11,371 persons in all. In addition to this large number of officers and persons in the permanent or temporary employment of the State other than persons employed on daily wages, the Railway and Tramway employees employ 2400, paid by daily wages, of whom about 2400 are employed in workshops; and the Department of Harbours and Rivers employs about 700 men similarly paid. These figures are, of course, exclusive of men employed in Government contracts with the colony.

Promotion from the probationary to the sixth class is conditional on the passing of an examination, or proof of attainments equivalent to it, and the candidate who receives the highest number of marks is appointed to any vacancy in that class. A candidate for the junior or cadet class of the professional division must have passed the junior University examination, or possess attainments equivalent to it. If admitted to that class he remains in it for the period and at the salary prescribed, and can only be promoted to the fourth class after examination. Thus it will be seen that in the general and professional division the lowest class is recruited from probationers or cadets, but persons temporarily employed in the service, if qualified, and if their term of employment has reached 12 months, are eligible for classification.

When a vacancy occurs in the service the mode of procedure prescribed by the Act is as follows:—“(1) The Civil Service Board considers and determines whether the vacant office shall be continued in the class fixed by the salary of the late occupant. If the Minister recommends any alteration, the Governor gives effect to it. (2) The superior officer of the department in which the vacancy occurs transmits through the head of the department a report, and recommends some officer in the department to succeed to the vacancy. (3) The head of the department may, if he thinks fit, transmit a similar report and recommendation. (4) The board that reports to the Minister in charge of the department the name of the officer so recommended, and of any other in the same or any other department, whether in the same class as the vacancy or in that immediately below it, considered by the board to be qualified to fill the vacancy; and the board specifies in its report the length of service, competence, and attainments of the various officers recommended. The Minister then recommends, and the Governor appoints the officer to be best qualified, always giving preference to an officer of the same department if equally fit. If the officer thus appointed enters a higher class from a lower one, he takes only the minimum salary of the class. If the vacancy is within the class occupied by the officer promoted, his salary is not to be increased by promotion, but remains subject to the prescribed increment of the class. In special cases the Minister may go outside the service to secure a person of special qualifications, and such person may be appointed without examination or probation; but all such appointments, and the reasons for making them, must be reported to Parliament by the board in the annual report. The Minister may also make temporary appointments, but persons so employed are not competent for admission to the service until they have passed the prescribed examination, and their temporary appointment is limited to two years.”

The disciplinary and penal provisions of the Act may be summarized thus:—If an officer is considered guilty of any misconduct or malpractice in his account, the Minister, or any officer authorized by him, may immediately suspend the defaulting officer. The case is then referred to the Governor, who requires the officer to be suspended to show cause why he should not be dismissed. The officer may then be dealt with either by removal or suspension, according to the nature of the offence. For any gross offence punishable by the Criminal Law, an officer is punished by summary dismissal; and insolvency operates as a forfeiture of office unless proved not to have been caused or incurred by fraud, extravagance, or dishonourable conduct. Dishonourable conduct and indolence are punished by fine, suspension

or dismissal. Suspension, if followed by dismissal, operates as a forfeiture of salary during the period of suspension. Fines are stopped from salaries and carried to the credit of the superannuation fund.

Officers are entitled to three weeks' holidays in every year, but an officer may accumulate, by not taking his annual leave of absence, up to two months. Sick leave on full or reduced salary may be given for three months and renewed for a like period, but the application must be accompanied by a medical certificate. A month's absence on sick leave is a forfeiture of the annual leave of absence. An officer of 20 years' service is entitled to a year's leave of absence on half-pay, or six months' on full pay; one of 10 years' service to six months or half salary or three months on full pay. For pressing necessities leave may be granted to any officer, but it may be deducted from the annual leave of absence. Subject to the Minister's directions, the bank holidays are also service holidays in all the public offices, also all proclaimed holidays.

In respect of pensions and gratuities, the Act of 1884 is a remarkable contrast to the old Superannuation Act. Officers and teachers in the Department of Public Instruction, though not subject to the regulatory and disciplinary pensions of the Act, are subject to its provisions for superannuation and kindred purposes. Retiring allowances are claimable as of right by officers of 60 years of age or upwards, and by those under that age only on proof of mental or bodily infirmity. But if an officer, superannuated by reason of such infirmity, be afterwards restored to health, he may be called upon to resume his official duties. The scale of retiring allowances commences at 15 years' service, which entitles an officer to one-fourth of his annual salary. For every year's service after 15 an additional sixtieth part of that salary is given, but the allowance can in no case exceed two-thirds of the salary. Salary is computed on the average of the last three years' payments, exclusive of foreign or travelling allowances.

On compulsory retirement of an officer not entitled to a superannuation allowance, a gratuity of one month's pay for each year of service may be granted, and a gratuity of two months' pay for each year of service may be given to an officer (or in case of his death to his widow or children, or failing such to his mother) incapacitated by bodily injury suffered in the discharge of duty; and a gratuity not exceeding six months' salary may be granted to the widow or children under 16 left by an officer's death in necessitous circumstances.

The maximum salary on which allowances and gratuities are provided from a fund created by deduction of 4 per cent from all salaries, a public grant of £20,000 to be continued for five years, the unexpended balance of the £35,000 appropriated for pensions by the Constitution Act, and fines.

The amount at the credit of the superannuation account bears 4 per cent interest, payable by the Consolidated Revenue Fund on 30th June and 31st December in every year.

The condition of the account for the year ending 1885 was, roughly, as follows:—

Annual grant £20,000
Carried from Constitution Act, sec. 52 3,000
Amount of deductions 50,494
Interest 1,745

£25,740

The expenditure for that year amounted to £4195 1s. 8d, or less than the amount transferred from the 52nd section of the Constitution Act and the interest on balances. The prospect for the year 1886 is said to be equally encouraging, and it may be safely predicted that if the fund is not impaired by injudicious attempts to tamper with its main sources of supply, it will at the end of five years be fully equal to any burdens legitimately imposed upon it. At the end of every three years, however, the condition of the superannuation account is subjected to actuarial investigation, and according to the results of such investigation the Government may either reduce the rate of deductions from salaries, or make a pro rata reduction in the superannuation allowances and gratuities. It should be mentioned that officers in the service at the passing of the Act are also required, on superannuation, to pay by half a deduction taken from their pensions, an equivalent to 4 per cent, on the aggregate payments received by them as salary; but how this provision is to be carried out is a matter on which opinion is much divided.

The Act is administered ministerially by the Colonial Secretary; but the Civil Service Board, a body composed at the present time of four public officers of high standing, and one gentleman unconnected with the public service, is the department which works the Act. The members of the board at the present time are the Hon. Geoffrey Eagar (chairman), with official colleagues—Mr. John Williams (Crown Solicitor), Mr. Goodchap (Commissioner for Railways), and Mr. A. C. Fraser (Clerk of the Peace), and Mr. Littlejohn as the fifth and non-official member. All members of the board are appointed by the Governor, and are remunerated by fees. The duties imposed on the board are of a very onerous, responsible, and often delicate character. On the 31st March last the board published the first Civil service list ever compiled in the colony. It is a formidable document of 174 pages, and exhibits the names and classification of every officer in the service within the respective divisions. According to this list, it appears that in the year 1885 the general division (within its six classes and probationary class) comprised 1725 persons, the professional division (within its four classes) 142 persons, the educational division 810 persons; that the temporary employees numbered 1115 persons, and that those included under section 7 of the Act numbered 3214 persons; those under section 8 numbered 2085 persons. The Civil Service Act therefore operates upon 11,371 persons in all. In addition to this large number of officers and persons in the permanent or temporary employment of the State other than persons employed on daily wages, the Railway and Tramway employees employ 2400, paid by daily wages, of whom about 2400 are employed in workshops; and the Department of Harbours and Rivers employs about 700 men similarly paid. These figures are, of course, exclusive of men employed in Government contracts with the colony.

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Officers and teachers in the Department of Public Instruction, though not subject to the regulatory and disciplinary pensions of the Act, are subject to its provisions for superannuation and kindred purposes. Retiring allowances are claimable as of right by officers of 60 years of age or upwards, and by those under that age only on proof of mental or bodily infirmity. But if an officer, superannuated by reason of such infirmity, be afterwards restored to health, he may be called upon to resume his official duties. The scale of retiring allowances commences at 15 years' service, which entitles an officer to one-fourth of his annual salary. For every year's service after 15 an additional sixtieth part of that salary is given, but the allowance can in no case exceed two-thirds of the salary. Salary is computed on the average of the last three years' payments, exclusive of foreign or travelling allowances.

On compulsory retirement of an officer not entitled to a superannuation allowance, a gratuity of

one month's pay for each year of service may be granted, and a gratuity of two months' pay for each year of service may be given to an officer (or in case of his death to his widow or children, or failing such to his mother) incapacitated by bodily injury suffered in the discharge of duty; and a gratuity not exceeding six months' salary may be granted to the widow or children under 16 left by an officer's death in necessitous circumstances.

The maximum salary on which allowances and gratuities are provided from a fund created by deduction of 4 per cent from all salaries, a public grant of £20,000 to be continued for five years, the unexpended balance of the £35,000 appropriated for pensions by the Constitution Act, and fines.

The amount at the credit of the superannuation account bears 4 per cent interest, payable by the Consolidated Revenue Fund on 30th June and 31st December in every year.

The condition of the account for the year ending 1885 was, roughly, as follows:—

Annual grant £20,000
Carried from Constitution Act, sec. 52 3,000
Amount of deductions 50,494
Interest 1,745

£25,740

The expenditure for that year amounted to £4195 1s. 8d, or less than the amount transferred from the 52nd section of the Constitution Act and the interest on balances. The prospect for the year 1886 is said to be equally encouraging, and it may be safely predicted that if the fund is not impaired by injudicious attempts to tamper with its main sources of supply, it will at the end of five years be fully equal to any burdens legitimately imposed upon it. At the end of every three years, however, the condition of the superannuation account is subjected to actuarial investigation, and according to the results of such investigation the Government may either reduce the rate of deductions from salaries, or make a pro rata reduction in the superannuation allowances and gratuities. It should be mentioned that officers in the service at the passing of the Act are also required, on superannuation, to pay by half a deduction taken from their pensions, an equivalent to 4 per cent, on the aggregate payments received by them as salary; but how this provision is to be carried out is a matter on which opinion is much divided.

The Act is administered ministerially by the Colonial Secretary; but the Civil Service Board, a body composed at the present time of four public officers of high standing, and one gentleman unconnected with the public service, is the department which works the Act. The members of the board at the present time are the Hon. Geoffrey Eagar (chairman), with official colleagues—Mr. John Williams (Crown Solicitor), Mr. Goodchap (Commissioner for Railways), and Mr. A. C. Fraser (Clerk of the Peace), and Mr. Littlejohn as the fifth and non-official member. All members of the board are appointed by the Governor, and are remunerated by fees. The duties imposed on the board are of a very onerous, responsible, and often delicate character. On the 31st March last the board published the first Civil service list ever compiled in the colony. It is a formidable document of 174 pages, and exhibits the names and classification of every officer in the service within the respective divisions. According to this list, it appears that in the year 1885 the general division (within its six classes and probationary class) comprised 1725 persons, the professional division (within its four classes) 142 persons, the educational division 810 persons; that the temporary employees numbered 1115 persons, and that those included under section 7 of the Act numbered 3214 persons; those under section 8 numbered 2085 persons. The Civil Service Act therefore operates upon 11,371 persons in all. In addition to this large number of officers and persons in the permanent or temporary employment of the State other than persons employed on daily wages, the Railway and Tramway employees employ 2400, paid by daily wages, of whom about 2400 are employed in workshops; and the Department of Harbours and Rivers employs about 700 men similarly paid. These figures are, of course, exclusive of men employed in Government contracts with the colony.

Promotion from the probationary to the sixth class is conditional on the passing of an examination, or proof of attainments equivalent to it, and the candidate who receives the highest number of marks is appointed to any vacancy in that class. A candidate for the junior or cadet class of the professional division must have passed the junior University examination, or possess attainments equivalent to it. If admitted to that class he remains in it for the period and at the salary prescribed, and can only be promoted to the fourth class after examination. Thus it will be seen that in the general and professional division the lowest class is recruited from probationers or cadets, but persons temporarily employed in the service, if qualified, and if their term of employment has reached 12 months, are eligible for classification.

When a vacancy occurs in the service the mode of procedure prescribed by the Act is as follows:—“(1)

The Civil Service Board considers and determines whether the vacant office shall be continued in the class fixed by the salary of the late occupant. If the Minister recommends any alteration, the Governor gives effect to it. (2) The superior officer of the department in which the vacancy occurs transmits through the head of the department a report, and recommends some officer in the department to succeed to the vacancy. (3) The head of the department may, if he thinks fit, transmit a similar report and recommendation. (4) The board that reports to the Minister in charge of the department the name of the officer so recommended, and of any other in the same or any other department, whether in the same class as the vacancy or in that immediately below it, considered by the board to be qualified to fill the vacancy; and the board specifies in its report the length of service, competence, and attainments of the various officers recommended. The Minister then recommends, and the Governor appoints the officer to be best qualified, always giving preference to an officer of the same department if equally fit. If the officer thus appointed enters a higher class from a lower one, he takes only the minimum salary of the class. If the vacancy is within the class occupied by the officer promoted, his salary is not to be increased by promotion, but remains subject to the prescribed increment of the class. In special cases the Minister may go outside the service to secure a person of special qualifications, and such person may be appointed without examination or probation; but all such appointments, and the reasons for making them, must be reported to Parliament by the board in the annual report. The Minister may also make temporary appointments, but persons so employed are not competent for admission to the service until they have passed the prescribed examination, and their temporary appointment is limited to two years.”

The disciplinary and penal provisions of the Act may be summarized thus:—If an officer is considered guilty of any misconduct or malpractice in his account, the Minister, or any officer authorized by him, may immediately suspend the defaulting officer. The case is then referred to the Governor, who requires the officer to be suspended to show cause why he should not be dismissed. The officer may then be dealt with either by

of population there is a steady demand for more accommodation, and a new asylum has already been asked for to prevent overcrowding in the existing establishments. There are one private lunatic asylum, conducted not as a charity, but as a business, which is under official supervision, and whether Government patients are admitted when there is no room for them in the larger establishments. The number of registered insane persons in the colony at the close of 1884 was 2,524, the number at the close of 1885 was 2,418, which shows an increase for the year of 121. The increase for 1883 was 90; for 1882 it was 89. Our lunatics are therefore on the increase, but, although the actual number of the insane has considerably increased during the last three or four years, their proportion to the general population has not increased. Of the 493 patients who were admitted in 1884, 134 were natives of New South Wales, 25 hailed from Scotland, England contributed 133, and Ireland 130. At the head of the ascertained causes of lunacy stands temperament in drink. To this cause no less than 112 per cent. of the lunacy of the colony is attributed. The two orphan schools near Parramatta, one Protestant, and one Roman Catholic, are also supported from Government funds, though, as a survival of old arrangements, the management of the Roman Catholic school was left in the hands of the Church authorities. But they are both decaying institutions, as the Government has recently adopted the system of boarding-out State children. This system has only been in operation for a few years, but it has met with unexpected success. 1,350 children have already been placed out. There is no difficulty in finding suitable families, as there are more applications for children than can be satisfied. The system is worked by a Government Board, which has its inspectors always on the roads, and in every district there are daily visitors to make periodical reports. Up to the present time the system has been found to work remarkably well, and promises to give a better future for State children than can be gained by crowding them into large barracks. The system has not yet increased the number of State children, but has rather diminished it, as in many cases mothers and friends claim the children as soon as they find they are to be boarded out. The average cost of the children boarded out is £15 4s. per head per annum. For children that are too much invalided to be boarded out, cottage homes have been provided, in each of which about a dozen children are placed under the care of a mother. A large proportion of the children so tended have sufficiently recovered to be placed in families, but there are many incurable cases for whom these cottage homes furnish the best available homes.

The number of institutions partially supported by the Government is considerable, because many of our charities have originated in private benevolence, and the managers have gone to the Government for assistance. The ordinary rule is for Government to give a pound for every pound privately subscribed, but this has not been strictly adhered to, and additional grants in aid of building funds and also grants of land have been made. The Benevolent Asylum, although still a private trust, has come to depend almost wholly on Government support. It undertakes the work of a maternity hospital, the receiving temporarily of destitute children, and the granting of out-door relief. The receipts last year were £797 in subscriptions, legacies, and maintenance payments from the public; and to £5149 from the Government. The Asylum for Destitute Children at Randwick has been a very important institution, and has been liberally sustained, both by the public and by the Government; but its importance is now declining, as by far the largest number of the children have been boarded out, and the institution, if it continues to exist, will have to undergo considerable modification. The daily average number of inmates throughout 1885 was 279; and there were only 189 in the institution at the close of the year. The number reserved for boarding out was 119. At the close of 1884 the number in the institution, evening lectures were established two years ago. The number of the students who have attended these lectures is about thirty.

The following are the principal provisions of the Public Instruction Act now in force:

1. Primary school education is placed under the sole direction and control of the Minister.

2. Teachers are made Civil servants, and are paid exclusively from the public funds.

3. School fees are reduced to the rate of three pence per week for each child, not more than a shilling per week to be paid for any family, and are made part of the public revenue. Parents unable to pay fees are exempt from payments.

4. Public schools may be established wherever an attendance of 20 pupils can be secured.

5. Provision is made for the establishment of high schools, provisional schools, itinerant schools, and evening public schools.

6. Attendance at school is made compulsory upon children who reside within two miles of a school, and are between the ages of 6 and 14 years.

7. The division of the colony into school districts, and the appointment of local school boards.

8. Provision is made for the general religious instruction of all pupils in connection with the ordinary secular instruction, and for setting apart one hour of each school day for special religious instruction.

9. Withdrawal of all aid from Denominational schools at the end of 1882. The regulations framed under the Public Instruction Act are very full and comprehensive, and deal with all matters connected with the administration of the department. Amongst the most important of these are they that relate to the gradation of schools and to the classification and payment of teachers. From these it appears that Public schools are arranged in 10 classes—the first class comprising those with an average attendance of 600 pupils, and the tenth class those with an average attendance of 20. The tenth class is the largest, and a section of a tenth-class school is paid a salary at the rate of £400 per annum, and is provided with a residence valued at £100 per annum; the teacher of a tenth-class school is paid £108 per annum, and is allowed a residence of the annual value of £20. To be eligible for appointment to a school a teacher must hold a specified classification, that for a first class school being 1A.

The two principal hospitals in the city and one near the University, are each built on land granted by the Government, and the buildings are principally constructed by Government money. Neither of them is at present completed. They are managed by committees, of which the Government nominates certain members. In the Sydney Hospital the number of patients in 1883 was 3,184, and the cost was £16,202. The income was £4,459 from the public and £13,616 from the Government. In the Prince Alfred Hospital last year, the number of patients was 1,634, and the cost £11,983. The income was—from the public £7,825 (including £2,223 from paying patients), and £5,483 from the Government. There is a hospital for sick children at the Globe, which depends partly on Government donations, and there is a Roman Catholic Hospital in the city, depending principally on private contributions, but where Government patients are paid for. All the country hospitals, of which there are 68 open, are partly supported by local contributions and partly by the Government. Last year the number of patients treated in them was 4,459. The income was £22,937 (including £2,601 received from patients), and £21,125 from Government. The returns from some hospitals are not yet in. There are in Sydney two institutions for the blind, one of which receives also deaf and dumb inmates. There is also an Infants' Home at Ashfield, which serves partly as a Foundling Hospital, but where the admissions are strictly regulated.

With regard to all the institutions wholly or partly supported by Government money, every effort is made to prevent fraud and impropriety, though not always with complete success. Applications are scrutinized as well as the accounts, and where applicants or their friends are capable of paying the cost of maintenance, either wholly or partially, they are required to do so, but at present these contributions form a very small proportion of the total cost.

Among the purely private charitable institutions may be mentioned two soup kitchens and night refuges; two female refuges, one Protestant and one Roman Catholic; a Charity Organisation Society, the agent of which makes every possible enquiry before granting relief; a Consumptive Home at Pictor, maintained at the cost of a single individual; some small cottage homes, conducted by benevolent ladies; and innumerable church organizations for charity. The Patriotic Fund, which was originally raised on the departure of the Australian Contingent for the Soudan, and which has been but little drawn upon, in consequence of the early return of the troops, amounts to £34,000, and is reserved for future contingencies.

In spite of all this provision for poverty, we have occasionally bad times, in which industrious men are out of work and without a meal, but these difficulties have hitherto been successfully met by the establishment of relief works. The Government, which is the largest employer in the country, finds or makes some work on which able-bodied men may be employed, and as it owns all the railways, it can give a free pass into the country to all who prefer the chance of rural employment.

EDUCATION.

Public education in New South Wales may be regarded as having commenced in 1818 with the Boards of National and Denominational Education. Prior to that date the schools were started by the heads of the state-aided denominations, or were mere adventure schools carried as private speculations. The buildings used as schoolrooms were, as a rule, badly plated, poorly lighted and ventilated, and miserably provided with appliances. No supervision, except in a few instances that of the local clergyman, was exercised over the teachers, few of whom had received any training for the work of teaching, or were in point of attainments qualified for such work. When the two boards began their labours there were 25,574 children in attendance at 462 schools; the population of the colony was then reckoned at 220,474. The National and Denominational systems were continued from 1848 till 1860. The national system was unsectarian, but allowed general religious instruction to be given by the teachers, and afforded free access to the clergy and other authorised religious teachers to give special instruction to the children of their own denominations. This principle has been embodied in the Public Schools Act and the Public Instruction Act. Under the Denominational boards schools were established in connection with the Church of England, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, and Wesleyan bodies. The arrangement of two rival systems was not found to work well. In small towns there were frequently found three and sometimes four competing schools, while country districts were left quite without the means of education. This state of things led to agitation for a change, which eventually brought about the Public Schools Act of 1866. During the 18

years the rival boards were in existence many improvements were effected. The National Board caused proper school buildings to be erected, imported trained teachers from Great Britain and Ireland, introduced the pupil-teacher system, and made arrangements for the training, examination, and classification of teachers, and for the systematic inspection of schools. The Denominational Board soon followed with similar wise action. In 1866, with a population of 447,620, the colony had 11,800 schools, attended by 63,183 pupils; of these the National Board had 259 schools, and 19,641 pupils; the Denominational Board, 317 schools and 27,986 scholars.

The chief features of the Public Schools Act, which came into force on 1st January, 1867, were the abolition of the two boards, and the placing of all State-aided schools under one governing body, termed the Council of Education; the establishment of Public schools wherever an attendance of 25 children was guaranteed; the granting of aid to provisional and half-time schools, so as to meet the wants of thinly-peopled districts; and the continuance, under certain restrictions, of Denominational schools. This Act made provision for general religious teaching during the four hours set apart for secular instruction, and for special teaching by clergymen or properly accredited substitutes during the remaining hour of each school day. The Denominational Board soon followed with similar wise action. In 1866, with a population of 447,620, the colony had 11,800 schools, attended by 63,183 pupils; of these the National Board had 259 schools, and 19,641 pupils; the Denominational Board, 317 schools and 27,986 scholars.

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in the colony without an effort, and in a few weeks they hardly notice any change whatever. No colonist visiting England ever speaks of his projected trip as other than "going home," although possibly he may be the first of his own and of the preceding generation who has known anything of Britain, save from hearsay. Generally speaking, the hospitality extended to strangers is of a much more domestic character, so to put it, than is the case in most of the other colonies. This may be quoted on the authority of visitors. There is less of entertainment in the club, and more of it at the fireside. Perhaps this is not so much the case amongst the residents in or near a city as it is in the country, for the obvious reason that those who are employed in business during the day, and have to travel any distance home, are only too glad to spend their evenings with their families. They readily welcome any guest who will spend an evening with them; but they object to going out themselves. In the country, provided that a visitor has any sociality about him, or anything to say for himself, the difficulty is often to get away from a hospitable house. There is practically no conventionality whatever in the country, and the most objectionable guest is he who stands upon ceremony. The comparatively isolated mode of life country residents follow has much to do with the unostentatious way in which they dispense hospitality.

Londoners are said to "desire love crowds," and sight-seeing, and the same may be said of dwellers at the Antipodes. Public holidays are avoided by people who have any objection to crowds. Whether it be the thronging of watering-places or public recreation grounds which causes people who are not over strong in their nerves to avoid these gatherings, or that they prefer to seek sequestered nooks to picnic with their families, is not worth arguing, but those who are thus constituted are comparatively speaking few in number. The Australian, as a rule, does not affect retirement, nor does he go pleasure-seeking by himself. A public spectacle or a general holiday means the enjoyment of the city. Discomfort is never thought of, and people good-naturedly do the best they can for themselves and one another to minimise it as far as possible. The thousands that assembled to witness the departure of the Sudan Contingent, and to welcome Lord and Lady Carrington, may be quoted as instances in which enthusiasm showed itself in the most marked manner. Curiosity held a second place compared with the national idea that "a crowd is half a spectacle." Though the narrow streets of the city, and their tortuous character, were ill-adapted for managing large masses of people, a mere handful of police were sufficient to maintain order, and not a single accident was recorded. The same remark may be truthfully made with regard to almost any public gathering. Instances have, no doubt, occurred where the blackguard element of the population has broken out, but the punishment that has been exacted has had such a salutary effect that a repetition has been a very rare matter. As people dance from morning to night on holidays, they have no time to make disturbances. A riot such as is common in other countries has never been heard of in this colony.

With regard to the amusements of the people, those of an athletic and a sporting character will be dealt with elsewhere, but there are some specialities that mark colonial society. First of these is the inordinate love for music. The concert-room is the centre of attraction to all classes, and musical performances are chiefly relied upon when it is necessary to evoke sympathy in aid of charitable objects. It were easier to find a person of musical taste than one without it. Music enters so largely into education that children are familiarised with its leading principles from their infancy. The piano is a greater adjunct to the furniture of a house than a family mangie. It may be found in almost every respectable residence, and one or other of the members is invariably more or less capable of playing it. The musical professor in the colony is one of the best represented, and hardly a small town exists in which there are not elementary teachers. Musical societies exist all over the country, and no social gathering of any kind would ever be organised in the absence of music. This taste for music has, no doubt, been largely improved by the regular visits of distinguished European artists, who have reaped rich harvests. The educational impetus they have given is best tested by the marked improvement in public taste. People have had the opportunity of hearing the best, and anything mediocre from a professional musician is not tolerated. It is true that classical opera has never been able to hold its own, but that arises from the fact that those who operate companies have been expensive, and that though a few of the principals might be professed, the rest of the corps has to be drawn from very poor material. In another direction, however, the musical proclivities of the inhabitants display themselves. The church choirs are as a rule far before those in the mother country. Every fashionable Anglican Church has its surprised choir, and the expenses of the musical staff are a very important item in the Easter balance-sheets. At some of the Roman Catholic Churches the celebration of the High Festivals is marked by the performance of the most elaborate music. Large orchestras are employed to supplement the organ, and the best professional talent is engaged. The other Protestant Churches make the vocal part of their service a matter of special care, and it is rare indeed to enter any church or chapel where the excellent singing is not a matter of special comment amongst strangers. The chief drawback to the thorough cultivation of the art in this colony is the want of a suitable hall. We have several concert-rooms where from five hundred to a thousand persons can be accommodated, but until the completion of the Centennial Hall, in connection with the Town Hall, and which will seat from four to five thousand persons, we shall have no proper facility for giving concerts on a large scale. The result of the want of a proper music-hall has been to cramp very much the energies of our musical societies, of which we have three in Sydney. The premier of these, the Sydney Liedertafel, has about 1000 members; then there is a younger society, called the Metropolitan Liedertafel; and a mixed society, entitled the Philharmonic. The performances given by all these institutions, in spite of the disadvantage alluded to, show that there is a large amount of genuine musical talent in Sydney.

The aesthetic part of domestic life, if such it can be called, is closely allied to the English model. Works of art, good libraries, and "gentlemanly" "as 'B' as 'B'" would have it, are a strong type of colonial life. The most ordinary home is adorned with some slight mementos of distinction, and is held in the walls of the bushman, but will be found covered with the best bush-arts that can be found. The Royal Academy's supplement of the "Sydney Mail," as well as those of some of the best English illustrators, are to be had in every church and in the suburbs of the bushman, with mental pleasure, which would increase the seal of the artist if he could but visit the strange, out-of-the-way spots where his pictures are hung, and note the admiration in which they are held. Nor is the Australian's love for indoor much less than it is for outdoor decoration. Unlike his European contemporary he has to struggle with seasons which are fatal to his flower-garden, unless he is prepared to give much time and attention to it. In the far interior it is almost impossible for him to do anything in the way of horticulture, but in the suburbs of the cities and in the neighbourhood of large towns flower-gardening outside and in bushhouses is a pursuit which a very large per centage of householders follow with great zest. Horticultural societies flourish in most of the attractions of the year. In many places such societies are organised for holding monthly meetings at the private houses of members, when horticultural meetings are discussed and plants interchanged. In this respect, perhaps, circumstances are favourable, as the colonists arrived from the islands and other places of seeds and plants for the purpose of acclimatisation gives to the industry a charm of novelty to which other communities are strangers.

To sum up the peculiarities of the colonial, it may be said that he is trained from his youth to look after himself. His parents have not more time on their hands than they can spare to feed, clothe, and educate him; hence he finds his own pleasures, and he often extracts them from his very slender materials. He is an athlete by nature and instinct, and he finds plenty to amuse him in the open air the year round, for he has no bitter winter to contend against. His indoor amusements may not be so various as those of his English brother, but he does not need them. He is usually out only in the evening, and to the great comfort of his friends, he goes early to bed, and sleeps soundly till morning.

As he grows older music and carpet-dancing supply him with all the indoor amusement he needs, and what little time he has left he employs with a book, which is a pursuit he, in most cases, might attend to more than he does in his youth, and not turn student in his old age. On his travels he is never surprised at anything he sees, and is a sterling patriot in that he believes that there is no country under heaven equal to his own. In this respect he, perhaps, is most entitled to the encomium. "He is more English than the English." Of all English-speaking countries New South Wales has most certainly caused the ancestor to illustrate through his descendants the inverse of the old Latin adage—"Mores non umquam mutant qui trans mare currunt."

CLUBS AND CLUB LIFE.

The clubs in Sydney—as Froude remarks in "Oceania"—combine the privileges of the club with the convenience of a private hotel; in other words, a member may reside in his club just as he might in an hotel. In the absence of such hotels as travellers are accustomed to in the principal cities of Europe and America, this is an advantage which the new arrival in Sydney will thoroughly appreciate. Such was Mr. Froude's experience on his arrival in Sydney last year. However deficient the city may be in hotel accommodation of the first order, its clubs, at any rate, are at least as good as the traveller could reasonably expect to find in the colonies. There are now six well-appointed clubs, of which three have been established for many years. The oldest is the Australian, which dates from a comparatively early period of our history, and has always been the favoured resort of old and successful colonists. It was here that Mr. Froude was lodged during his stay in Sydney, and his good opinion of it is duly recorded in his book. Although its premises are by no means imposing from an architectural point of view, they are well-situated, roomy, and convenient. Next to it in point of seniority comes the Union Club, the members of, which are principally connected with the mercantile interests of the city. The club buildings are now being largely added to, and when the additions are completed the clubhouse will present a very handsome appearance. It is especially well situated, standing in its own grounds, with a frontage to three streets. The Reform Club—formerly known as the Victoria—is particularly fortunate in its situation. It occupies a handsome building in Macquarie-street, adjoining the Colonial Secretary's Offices, and overlooking the Garden Palace Gardens and the harbour. Its members are, for the most part, connected with politics; members on both sides of the House meeting each other daily in friendly intercourse, and thus tempering the hostility of the political arena with the cordialities of social life. The Athenaeum Club was established ten years ago by the representatives of journalism and literature generally. It was intended in the first instance as its name implies, to form a happy meeting-ground for literary men exclusively; but the fact that there was found too small for the purposes of a club, and it was consequently enlarged, with a view to the admission of members not connected with literature or the arts. A large and convenient building is now in course of erection for the club in Castlereagh-street. Lord Rosebery, who enjoyed its hospitality during his stay in Sydney two years ago, being the owner of the land, and the future landlord of the club. The New South Wales Club occupies a very fine building in Bligh-street, adjoining the Turkish Baths. Its members are chiefly mercantile men. The Warrell Club, composed exclusively of squatters, is well domesticated in Macquarie-street. There is also the Sydney Club, which consists chiefly of mercantile men, and which has a large membership. Thus it will be seen that there is no lack of variety among these institutions, almost every section of society having its place of assembly, and no social gathering of any kind would ever be organised in the absence of music. This taste for music has, no doubt, been largely improved by the regular visits of distinguished European artists, who have reaped rich harvests. The educational impetus they have given is best tested by the marked improvement in public taste. People have had the opportunity of hearing the best, and anything mediocre from a professional musician is not tolerated. 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The performances given by all these institutions, in spite of the disadvantage alluded to, show that there is a large amount of genuine musical talent in Sydney.

FINE ART IN SYDNEY.

It is a matter for congratulation for Sydney and its people that art-taste has made such rapid strides of late, and though, if comparisons be indulged in, Sydney must stand very far below many other capitals in its representation of art treasure, yet it must be confessed that it has outstripped most of the cities which started at the same stepping-stone. Art is in its infancy, but it is a healthy infancy, and if nursed with the same loving foster-care which is now being lavished upon it, will merge into healthy childhood, and step by step attain to noble manhood. We have but to look back a decade or so of years for proof of what we have stated. The Art Gallery, the foster-care of our fondling, first took up its abode in one of the busy streets of our busy city, and held out no attraction to anyone but the downright lover of art for art's sake. Few of the working classes knew of the existence of the gallery. It boasted but few examples of art, and these were neither draped to advantage nor hung with due regard to the effect produced by light and shade. But all this is changed now. A National Art Gallery has been built, not in an out-of-the-way place, difficult of access, and environed with the hubbub of business life, but in one of the prettiest spots in the heart of the city, so that the working-man can study nature and art at the same time. And the portals of the Art Gallery are here thrown open on a Sunday, with this result that as many as 6000 persons have passed the turnstiles in one afternoon to look upon some of the best examples of living painters. The lower and last stand hand in hand, gazing on Leighton's masterpiece, "Wedded," and hope that such absolute happiness and rest as is there depicted may be meted out to them. Millais is represented by his sweet and "Captive Girl." Luke Fildes' vigorously brush paints the sight-seer a view of one of the cottage homes—unlike any home here. Seymour Lucas has his historical story of the Lord High Admiral Howard played at bowls while the Aranda heaves in sight, prominently and judiciously "hung." The million-dollar stands out bodily—e.g., "The Defense of Bork's Drift," the poor de Neuville—too good to be taken from us and a splendid specimen of the modern war-picture, running close to, if not on a level with, our fair countrywoman's picture of the same battle—Miss Thompson of "Roll Call" fame. All these pictures do infinite credit to the taste and judgment of our trustees. We can boast also of some of David Law's exquisite landscapes, and a study or two in water-colour by the same artist. Royal Academicians, too, to wit, Jones, Andrew, and others—are represented. Some good samples of the Italian school, Thomassini, "Playing at Chess in the Vatican," and two or three lovely bits of Venetian scenery, reminding us very forcibly of the subtle touch and finish of Fra Giacomo. We must not omit a lovely bit of fresco work by Sir Frederick Leighton—a woman's head—done specially for the Sydney Art Gallery by the Royal Academy's courteous and obliging president, and a very clever reproduction in colours of one of his fresco studies, by a Sydney student at the South Kensington School.

In six years the trustees have nearly quadrupled the number of pictures, and though there are some inferior canvases among them, yet, the choice, on the whole, has been sound and judicious, considering the limited amount of money at their command. This much must be said to their praise, that their art treasures compare with, even if they do not surpass, those of their wealthier if younger rivals, Melbourne. The number of visitors to the gallery during 1884 was 262,861, namely, 187,400 on weekdays, and 105,450 on Sundays. The number of persons employed was 10: the expenditure was £82,926 £s. 7d., and included the following items—Minor internal repairs and sundries, £286 15s. 2d.; works of art, £6247 11s. 1d.; salaries, £251 19s. 6d. The figure for 1885 are not yet published.

The Art Gallery is poor in Sculpture and in Architecture—the latter, a "lacuna" that should be promptly filled, even if it were only to take the shape of careful copies of some of the best drawings of Wren, Barry, Pugin, Street, Burgess, &c. Buildings are in course of erection in Sydney which will satisfy the most fastidious, but we must confess that until recently the architecture of our public buildings has not been of a nature to attract respect.

St. Andrew's Anglican Cathedral is a fine building of the perpendicular style. St. Mary's, the Cathedral, is, as unashamed as of its own sins, the most pretentious, and the most objectionable, of all the cathedrals in the colony.

There is no reason why perfection should not be attained even in the construction of the ever-increasing bungalow. Our Post Office is an imposing building and cost a round sum of money; and the same remark applies to the public offices, to the offices of public companies, to the banks, &c., which stud our principal streets. In the Art Society we have a valuable auxiliary of the trustees of the Art Gallery. The society has been working vigorously for some years past, and its annual exhibitions have been highly creditable.

To conclude as we started, art is in its infancy with us, yet we have one great point in our favour. The more our people see of the classic and beautiful, the more they will desire it. And a proof of this is that for every ten persons who visited the Art Gallery a few years ago, a thousand visit it now. Where there was one art student who would say, with George Eliot's Cosmo, "Va! your human talk and doings are a tame jest, the only passionate life is in form and colour," there are scores to-day. Where one of our families visited the English capitals, to inspect the art treasure troves of dead and gone centuries, it is to-day the exception, not the rule, to fail to do so. A great deal of this interest in awakening in all cultivated classes in the advancement of art.

Such was Mr. Froude's experience on his arrival in Sydney last year. However deficient the city may be in hotel accommodation of the first order,

fair share of rich prizes went down before them. Nearly every town of importance has its rec club. The premier institution, the Australian Jockey Club, holds its meetings at Randwick on a picturesque spot situated about three miles from Sydeny, where the leading events are the Champagne Stakes, Richmond Stakes, and Produce Stakes for two-year-olds, the Derby, the St. Leger for three-year-olds, the Sydney Cup, and the Great Metropolitan Stakes (handicaps) for all horses three years old and upwards. The course is a mile and a quarter in circumference and has a grand stand capable of accommodating 2500 persons, an official stand which will seat about 600, while a third stand, called the St. Leger, to contain nearly 4000, is in course of erection. A tramway line runs from the city direct to the course, and the attendance ranges from 10,000 to over 20,000. Mr. T. S. Clifton is never tired of making improvements, and the course and training tracks are invariably in excellent condition. Amongst the other clubs of prominence are the Hawkesbury Race Club, the Rosehill Racing Club, and Tattersall's Club. As the best strains of blood to be found in the United Kingdom have been introduced into our studs through such horses as the Drummer, Flying Vienna, Kelpie, Epigram, Freerider, Glorius, Gemma di Piccy, Obscurity, Whisker, Emigrant, Potentate, Cap-a-pie, Gratus, Emigrant, Vespa, Express, Planes, Vagabond, Thoroughbred, Marcelline, Sir Melville, New Warwick, Splendour, Kingdon, &c., to say nothing of the stallions which have been imported in the interests of the other colonies, it can be well understood that assisted by what is nobler to extend it so that the masses in a wholesale way, with a great and genial refining influence ought to be the end of the great and good philanthropists of our time, as of all true art lovers. And the great exhibition to which we are all looking forward with so much interest, affords an excellent opportunity for carrying out this great and good work.

THE STAGE AND ITS WORK IN SYDNEY.

Of late we have had a sort of controversy on the stage and its influences upon society. The fight has ended in victory for neither side. The stage here in Sydney prospers, and upon the whole prosper on legitimate grounds. There are three or four fully equipped theatres already, and we are soon to have two more.

The Theatre Royal, our leading house, has been faring very well. High-class comic opera—for we, so we suppose, must be termed the Goliath and Sullivan opera, though it becomes more and more popular to those who insist that there is very little originality in the music of Sir Arthur Sullivan, and maintain that his last two operas are so many imitations of his two former ones. High-class drama has been much relished "of the vulgar"—the pit and gallery, or rather, we ought to say, the stalls and pit, for we boast nothing so divine as "gods here"—relishing the fare provided for them with rare appetites. A new Australian drama—of the sensational kind—by an Australian author, entitled "The Shades of Australia," is the last venture at this popular place of amusement, and when that is done with, we are to have an opera company, which will be followed by the Majorettes, in some domestic drama. We may remark that the prices at this theatre have been lowered from 5s., 8s., and 2s., to 8s., 2s., and 1s.—popular prices, as people call them here.

At the Opera House there has been strong melodrama, with thrilling effects, railways, fights, and scrimmages. "Across the Continent," "Al at Lloyd's," &c., have been all the rage, and have been much relished "of the vulgar"—the pit and gallery, or rather, we ought to say, the stalls and pit, for we boast nothing so divine as "gods here"—relishing the fare provided for them with rare appetites. A new Australian drama—of the sensational kind—by an Australian author, entitled "The Shades of Australia," is the last venture at this popular place of amusement, and when that is done with, we are to have an opera company, which will be followed by the Majorettes, in some domestic drama. We may remark that the prices at this theatre have been lowered from 5s., 8s., and 2s., to 8s., 2s., and 1s.—popular prices, as people call them here.

At the Gaity, which is, after the Royal, the most popular place of amusement in Sydney, Mr. Dampier is playing his 20th week. He gave us "Green Leaves of England," very well mounted, and well played. The Alhambra and the Academy of Music are the temples of negro minstrelsy and funny songs and light entertainment, shorn of the coarseness and double-entendre that sometimes obtain in the so-called London and Hall. It is a matter of some congratulation to Sydney and its people that there is not one place of amusement in the city where anything vicious or indecent finds favour. Your Miss' play is to be performed at the Royal, the Red Gauntlet, schooner, 75 tons; Ema, steamer, 53 tons; the Northumbria, steamer, 37 tons; the Mistral, cutter, 32 tons; the Magic, cutter, 25 tons; the Waitangi, cutter, 21 tons; the Electra, yawl, 21 tons; the Tea Telli, yawl, 20 tons; the lowest register being five tons. In April, 1883, the club received the Admiralty warrant for flying the blue ensign with the bugle. The club represents 19 yacht owners. At present there are about 112 members in the club, representing 29 yachts. The term yacht must of course be accepted in a comprehensive sense, as it really includes a steamer, a schooner, cutters, and yachts. In some cases the tonnage of the banks is large enough to enable them to take long-distance voyages. For instance, the Lady Aline, steamer, which heads the list, is of 107 tons; the Red Gauntlet, schooner, 75 tons; the Mistral, cutter, 32 tons; the Magic, cutter, 25 tons; the Waitangi, cutter, 21 tons; the Electra, yawl, 21 tons; the Tea Telli, yawl, 20 tons; the lowest register being five tons. In April, 1883, the club received the Admiralty warrant for flying the blue ensign with the bugle. The club represents 19 yacht owners. At present there are about 112 members in the club, representing 29 yachts. The term yacht must of course be accepted in a comprehensive sense, as it really includes a steamer, a schooner, cutters, and yachts. In some cases the tonnage of the banks is large enough to enable them to take long-distance voyages. For instance, the Lady Aline, steamer, which heads the list, is of 107 tons; the Red Gauntlet, schooner, 75 tons; the Mistral, cutter, 32 tons; the Magic, cutter, 25 tons; the Waitangi, cutter, 21 tons; the Electra, yawl, 21 tons; the Tea Telli, yawl, 20 tons; the lowest register being five tons. In April, 1883, the club received the Admiralty warrant for flying the blue ensign with the bugle. The club represents 19 yacht owners. At present there are about 112 members in the club, representing 29 yachts. The term yacht must of course be accepted in a comprehensive sense, as it really includes a steamer, a schooner, cutters, and yachts. In some cases the tonnage of the banks is large enough to enable them to take long-distance voyages. For instance, the Lady Aline, steamer, which heads the list, is of 107 tons; the Red Gauntlet, schooner, 75 tons; the Mistral, cutter, 32 tons; the Magic, cutter, 25 tons; the Waitangi, cutter, 21 tons; the Electra, yawl, 21 tons; the Tea Telli, yawl, 20 tons; the lowest register being five tons. In April, 1883, the club received the Admiralty warrant for flying the blue ensign with the bugle. The club represents 19 yacht owners. At present there are about 112 members in the club, representing 29 yachts. The term yacht must of course be accepted in a comprehensive sense, as it really includes a steamer, a schooner, cutters, and yachts. In some cases the tonnage of the banks is large enough to enable them to take long-distance voyages. For instance, the Lady Aline, steamer, which heads the list, is of 107 tons; the Red Gauntlet, schooner, 75 tons; the Mistral, cutter, 32 tons; the Magic, cutter, 25 tons; the Waitangi, cutter, 21 tons; the Electra, yawl, 21 tons; the Tea Telli, yawl, 20 tons; the lowest register being five tons. In April, 1883, the club received the Admiralty warrant for flying the blue ensign with the bugle. The club represents 19 yacht owners. At present there are about 112 members in the club, representing 29 yachts. The term yacht must of course be accepted in a comprehensive sense, as it really includes a steamer, a schooner, cutters, and yachts. In some cases the tonnage of the banks is large enough to enable them to take long-distance voyages. For instance, the Lady Aline, steamer, which heads the list, is of 107 tons; the Red Gauntlet, schooner, 75 tons; the Mistral, cutter, 32 tons; the Magic, cutter, 25 tons; the Waitangi, cutter, 21 tons; the Electra, yawl, 21 tons; the Tea Telli, yawl, 20 tons; the lowest register being five tons. In April, 1883, the club received the Admiralty warrant for flying the blue ensign with the bugle. The club represents 19 yacht

COLONIAL AND INDIAN EXHIBITION SUPPLEMENT TO THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD.

He sailed along our coast in the year 1770, and entered Botany Bay on the 29th April of that year.

1788.—Captain Phillip with the "First Fleet," consisting of 11 sail, with more than a thousand souls, arrived in Botany Bay on January 18. Finding that place unsuitable for a settlement, he went in search of a better site, and on January 22 discovered Port Jackson.

The fleet arrived in that port on January 26, and a flagstaff having been erected the British flag was hoisted. Sydney was founded, and the history of the colony commenced. On the previous day, January 25, two French discovery ships, the *Astrolabe* and the *Boussole*, under the command of the unfortunate La Pérouse, entered Botany Bay. The French vessels left Botany Bay on March 10, and were never seen again. On February 14, Lieutenant P. G. King was sent on an expedition to colonise Norfolk Island. There was a rumoured find of gold near Sydney in August.

1789.—Hawkesbury River discovered. The colony being short of provisions, the Sirius was sent to the Cape of Good Hope for a supply.

1790.—Scarcity of food again, which was relieved by the arrival of vessels from England. In this year the first detachment of what was afterwards called the New South Wales Corps—the now 102nd regiment—arrived.

1792.—Governor Phillip left the colony for England on December 11, leaving the government to be administered by Captain Grose, afterwards by Captain Paterson.

1793.—The *Balaena*, the first immigrant ship, arrived on January 16, with a number of free settlers, most of whom had land granted to them at Liberty Plains. In this year there was again a great scarcity of provisions. The first church was built. Wild cattle were discovered among the Nepean, the progeny of a bull and some cows brought here by Governor Phillip, and which had been allowed to stray into the bush by a careless convict servant.

1795.—Governor Hunter arrived on September 7. An official gazette was established.

1796.—In March Flinders and Bass discovered and explored Port Hacking.

1797.—Lieutenant Shortland discovered the Hunter River.

1799.—Bass, in an open boat, explored the coast as far as Western Port, and discovered the straits bearing his name. A runaway convict, named Wilson, who had been living with the blacks, crossed the Blue Mountains, and penetrated as far as the Lachlan.

1800.—Governor Hunter returned to England September 27. Captain King assumed the Government on September 28. French discovery ships, *Georges* and *Naturaliste*, arrived in Port Jackson.

1803.—*Sydney Gazette* established.

1804.—Revolt of convicts at Toongabbie and Castle Hill.

1805.—Settlement at Norfolk Island abandoned.

1806.—Heavy floods in the Hawkesbury in March. Governor King left August 12, succeeded next day by Governor Bligh.

1808.—An Anniversary Day Major Johnstone, of the New South Wales Corps, placed Governor Bligh under arrest, and deposed him. From that date until the end of December in the following year the Government was administered successively by Major Johnstone, Colonel Foveaux, and Colonel Paterson.

1811.—Governor Macquarie assumed office on January 1.

1816.—Meares, Wentworth, Lawson, and Blaxland crossed the Blue Mountains, and discovered Bathurst Plains.

1814.—Judge Bent, the first Judge of the Supreme Court, arrived in July.

1817.—Voyage of discovery on the north and west of Australia made by Captain Phillip Parker King, son of the late Governor. Oxley discovered the Lachlan and Macquarie.

1818.—Hamilton Hume discovered the district of which Goulburn is now the centre.

1821.—Governor Macquarie succeeded by Governor Brisbane on December 1.

1823.—The Macarthur Plains discovered.

1824.—Hovell and Hume started overland from Launceston, discovered the Hume, the Ovens, and the Goulburn Rivers, and reached Port Phillip on December 16. Allan Cunningham discovered the Oudgeong, and explored Liverpool Plains. First Legislative Council, all nominees, established August 24. The censorship of the press was abolished during this year.

1825.—The Australian Agricultural Company was formed. Van Dieman's Land separated from New South Wales during this year. Governor Brisbane was fired from office on December 1, and was succeeded by Governor Darling on December 13. Colonial Stewart having administered the Government in the interim.

1827.—Bushy's Bore, to supply Sydney with water, was constructed. Burt discovered the Darling River.

1829.—Sturt made second expedition down the Murray and its junction with the Darling. He then followed the river down to its mouth, in Lake Alexandrina-Cunningham, in the north, discovered the Gwydir and Murray Rivers, and the Darling Downs.

1831.—Governor Darling left England on October 22, Colonial Lindsay being Acting Governor. On December 3, Governor Bourke took office. Sydney first published on April 18.

1842.—First Appropriation Bill assented to on March 21. New South Wales *Government Gazette* first published on March 7.

1840.—Transportation to New South Wales ceased. Sydney Herald published daily under the name of *Sydney Morning Herald*.

1842.—Act passed by the Legislative Council incorporating the towns of Sydney and Milsons.

1843.—New Legislative Council partly elective and partly nominee, met for the first time on August 1. First commercial depression in the colony at this time, and the practice of boiling down sheep and cattle was first recorded. Benjamin Peppin formed a settlement at Twofold Bay.

1844.—Dr. Leichhardt made an expedition overland to Port Essington from Moreton Bay. Captain Sturt made an expedition from South Australia, in the course of which he discovered Cooper's Creek. In this year, for the first time, the exports of the colony exceeded the imports.

1845.—Sir Thomas Mitchell explored the country towards the Gulf of Carpentaria, and discovered the Salvator, Claudio, Nogoa, Belyando, and Victoria Rivers.

1846.—Governor Gipps left the colony on July 11, and the Government was administered by Sir Maurice O'Connell until August 2. On the following day Governor FitzRoy was sworn in. Anti-transportation Committee formed both in Sydney and in Melbourne.

1847.—Lady Mary FitzRoy thrown from her carriage and killed at Parramatta, on December 7.

1848.—Leichhardt, on February 28, started from Casino Downs on his final expedition, and was never heard of again.

1849.—The Hotham arrived on June 11, with 212 male convicts on board. A master meeting was held on the Circular Quay to protest against the convicts being allowed to land. They were, however, allowed to be engaged by the squatters in the interior. These were the last convicts sent to New South Wales.

1850.—First turf of the Sydney and Goulburn railway turned by Mr. E. H. Hargrave, at Ophir, near Bathurst. In June large quantities of gold were discovered in other parts of the western districts, and also near Goulburn. In July, a black fellow found a nugget weighing 100 lbs. Victoria separated from New South Wales July 1.

1852.—Sydney University inaugurated October 11. 1853.—A select committee was appointed, on the motion of Mr. Wentworth, on May 20, to prepare a Constitution for the colony. The Constitution Bill prepared by this committee passed its third reading on December 31. A bill for the establishment of the present Botany Swamp waterworks was assented to on October 31.

1854.—Sir Charles FitzRoy retired from office on January 17, and on January 20 Sir William Denison assumed the reins of Government. Railway to Parramatta opened on September 26.

1856.—The old Legislative Council was dissolved on February 20. On May 22 the first Parliament under responsible government met. Sir Alexander Donaldson

being Premier; Sir Daniel Cooper, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly; and Sir William Burton, President of the Legislative Council.

1858.—Rush to the Fitzroy River diggings, which proved very disastrous, and the Government had to take measures to bring many of the diggers back to Sydney.

1859.—Queensland separated from New South Wales, December 10.

1860.—Sir Daniel Cooper resigned the Speakership on January 31, and Mr. T. A. Murray was elected in his place. Serious riots among the diggers at Lambing Flat, owing to the presence of large numbers of Chinese.

1861.—Sir William Denison resigned the Governorship, and was succeeded on December 22 by Sir John Young, Colonel Kemp having administered the Government in the meantime. On January 14 Mr. Robertson (now Sir John) introduced the Crown Lands Abandonment Bill, providing for free selection before the Crown Lands were sold. These bills have passed the Assembly, Mr. Robertson resigning his seat, and was appointed to the Legislative Council, through which body he piloted both bills, though not without some amendments that were unacceptable to the Assembly. An attempt was made to swamp the Council, but the President and most of the old members resigned, and in consequence a dissolution of Parliament took place. At a later period of the year, in a new Parliament, both bills were passed.

1865.—Conference between the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria, held in Sydney, on the subject of the border duties, in April.

1867.—Sir John Young retired from the Governorship on December 24, and Sir Trevor Chute took the position of Administrator.

1868.—Sir John Belmont assumed the office of Governor on January 8. The Duke of Edinburgh arrived in the colony in January, and was shot by O'Farrell, at a picnic at Clontarf, on March 12.

1871.—Second Intercolonial Conference on the Border Duties question held in September. As the Conference was unable to agree, the duties had to be collected.

1872.—Sir John Belmont retired from the Governorship on February 22, and Sir Alfred Stephen became Administrator until Sir Hercules Robinson assumed the position of Administrator.

1873.—Remains of W. C. Wentworth accorded the honour of a public funeral on May 6. Intercolonial Conference held in Sydney in January and February. Agreement arrived at in May between New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, to suspend the collection of border duties for three years. On November 11 Sir James Martin resigned his seat in the Legislative Assembly, and accepted the position of Chief Justice.

1874.—Triennial Parliaments Bill assented to.

1875.—Lands Act Amendment Act was passed and assented to.

1877.—Intercolonial Conference held in Sydney in January on the subject of the duplication of the telegraph cable between Australia and Europe. Sir John Robertson and Sir John Parker knighted in July; gazetted here in September.

1878.—Coalition between Sir Henry Parkes and Sir John Robertson.

1879.—Sir Hercules Robinson retired on March 10. Sir Alfred Stephen again administered the Government until the arrival of Lord Augustus Loftus on August 4. International Exhibition opened in the Garden Palace, Sydney, on September 17.

1880.—News received, March 1, of the death of Mr. J. H. Challis, who left a large bequest to the Sydney University. Department of Public Instruction established with Sir John Robertson first Minister. Electoral Bill assented to July 12.

1881.—Intercolonial Conference held in Sydney in January, at which the questions of federation and intercolonial tariff were considered, among other things. Delegates from all colonies arrived in Port Jackson July 14.

1882.—Coalition between Sir Henry Parkes and Sir John Robertson.

1883.—New Parliament met January 3. Mr. Edmund Barton elected Speaker. Stuart Government formed January 5. Land sales by auction stopped. Postal Conference met in Sydney on May 3. On May 29 a special session of Parliament was convened to legalize the use of steam motors on the tramways. It was prorogued on June 2. The junction of the Victorian and New South Wales railways was celebrated by a grand banquet at Albury on June 14. Third session of the 11th Parliament opened on October 9, and on the 11th Mr. Farnell introduced an amending Land Bill.

1884.—The Land Bill assented to by the Governor October 21. Parliament prorogued on November 1, having sat nearly 13 months. A financial session of Parliament was convened on November 19, and prorogued on November 27.

1885.—On February 12, news having arrived of the taking of Khartoum by the Arabs and the death of General Gordon, Mr. Dalley, on behalf of the colony, made an offer to send troops to the Soudan in defense of the British army. On February 14, a telegram was received, stating that the offer was accepted. Immediate preparations were made, and on March 3 the Contingent, consisting of about 500 infantry, 200 artillery, and 200 horses, sailed for Soudan in the Iberia and Australasia (steamship). On June 20 the Contingent returned in the steamer Arab, and on the 24th they landed publicly, and were received with great rejoicing. Parliament met on September 3. On October 8 Parliament was prorogued, prior to dissolution. On October 5 Mr. Stuart and his Ministry resigned. Mr. Dalley was sent for to form a new Government, but declined the task, which Mr. Dalley was then commissioned to undertake. The general election commenced on October 14. Mr. Dibbs was defeated for St. Leonards, but was subsequently returned for the Murrumbidgee. Lord Augustus Loftus resigned the Governorship, and left the colony on November 10. New Parliament met November 18. Financial statement made by Mr. Dibbs, Premier and Colonial Treasurer, on December 11. Lord Augustus Loftus was the new Governor, and landed officially on December 12. The Government was formed by Sir Alfred Stephen since the departure of Lord Augustus Loftus. Dibbs Minister resigned on December 22. New Government formed by Sir John Robertson on December 27.

1886.—New Ministerial Bill assented to without opposition. Parliament met on January 27. On the following day the House adjourned until Thursday, February 4, declining to proceed with business until the financial statement was made. On the day named Mr. Burns made the Budget speech. On Thursday, February 11, Mr. Garvan moved a direct vote of want of confidence in the Government, which was carried on the following Tuesday by 53 to 44. In consequence of this the Government resigned next day, and Sir Patrick Jennings was sent for. Sir Patrick, after vainly attempting to form a Coalition Government in conjunction with Sir John Robertson, succeeded in forming the present Ministry, the whole of whom were re-elected by their constituents.

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1893.—First turf of the Sydney and Goulburn railway turned by Mr. E. H. Hargrave, at Ophir, near Bathurst.

1894.—Sir Charles Denison, of the New South Wales Corps, afterwards 13th Regiment, Major-General L. Macquarie, Major-General Sir T. Brisbane, K.C.B., Colonel Stewart (3rd Regiment, or Buffs), Acting Governor Lieutenant-General R. Darling, General Lindsay, C.B., Acting Governor Major-General Sir Richard Bourke, K.C.B., Lieutenant-Colonel K. Snodgrass, Acting Governor Sir George Gipps.

1895.—Sir Charles Denison

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1900.—Sir Charles Denison

1901.—Sir Charles Denison

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1905.—Sir Charles Denison

1906.—Sir Charles Denison

1907.—Sir Charles Denison

1908.—Sir Charles Denison

1909.—Sir Charles Denison

1910.—Sir Charles Denison

1911.—Sir Charles Denison

1912.—Sir Charles Denison

1913.—Sir Charles Denison

1914.—Sir Charles Denison

1915.—Sir Charles Denison

K.C.B., G.C.M.G., Administrator, afterwards Governor-in-Chief Sir Trevor Chute, K.C.B., Administrator The Right Honorable the Earl of Belmont (Privy Councillor) Sir Hercules George Robert Robinson, G.C.M.G., Governor-in-Chief The Right Honorable Sir Augustus William Frederick Spence Loftus, P.C., G.C.M.G., Sir Alfred Stephen, Knt., C.B., K.C.M.G., Lieutenant-Governor The Right Hon. Baron Carrington, P.C., G.C.M.G.

JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT.

CHIEF JUSTICE.

The Hon. Sir James Martin, Knt.

JUNIOR JUDGES.

The Hon. Peter Faure.

The Hon. Sir William M. Manning, Knt.

The Hon. Wm. Charles Windeyer.

The Hon. Sir George Innes, Knt.

PRIMARY JUDGES IN EQUITY.

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